



## **Artificial Turf**

The best examples of garden paving allow water to percolate down into the earth instead of directing it straight into the municipal gutter—or into the basement of a nearby house. However, some people still have a strong desire for the cool look and feel of a lawn. Many designers are experimenting with alternative ways of quite literally carpeting the garden. For instance, since grass never grew well in the small pocket garden behind their client's New York City townhouse because the surrounding buildings block the sunlight for most of the day, Susan Welti and Paige Keck of Foras Studio installed an artificial turf as a replacement. Welti says that every year new technologies make synthetic grass a more convincing substitute. The fake grass saves the money and maintenance of watering, the energy and pollution of mowing,

and the often fruitless struggle of trying to grow sun-loving turf at the bottom of a dark city backyard. However, its use is best suited to a smaller, high-traffic, high-play area of the yard where a standard pristine lawn is desired.

Fake grass can make a viable substitute for real lawn in small areas that get little sunlight such as this one behind a New York City townhouse.

## Where to Find It

EasyTurf (www.easyturf.com) ForeverLawn (www.foreverlawn.com JM Synthetic Grass (www.jmsyntheticgrass.com SynLawn (www.synlawn.com)