

Turning Japanese

It's worth employing a professional when it comes to the design of your outdoor room

PHOTOGRAPHY Patrick Redmond



OPPOSITE PAGE Lisa's Garden features a striking pergola that was designed as an informal and private resting place.

LEFT Merbau timber decking represents a Zen garden's peace and tranquillity.

ABOVE In keeping with its Japanese influences, the structure was painted in Dulux Symphony Red that creates an exciting mood

BELOW Painted in Dulux Prehistoric, the dark grey walls and contrasting green foliage make the space seem larger.



The hottest trend for outdoor spaces is incorporating a modern structure such as pergolas and pavilions, teamed with impressive combinations of plants, to really transform a space and add both interest and function.

The key to creating a standout space is employing an experienced landscaper and horticulturalist who is not afraid to think outside the box. With more than 12 years' experience, Ross Goodman from Ross Goodman Design has worked with some of the best in the industry and is a member

of the Housing Industry Association and Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers. Making use of the latest 3D computer-aided drawing software, the company presents plans as a model in animation to allow clients to really visualise the space well before it is designed.

Ross Goodman Design's latest project, Lisa's Garden, features a striking pergola that was designed as an informal and private resting place. In keeping with its Japanese influences, the structure was painted in Dulux Symphony Red that creates an exciting mood.

The informal screen of timber placed at varying heights produces an interesting feature and allows light to pour in, while the merbau timber decking represents a Zen garden's peace and tranquillity. Constructed of merbau timber decking material and stainless steel, the seat at the rear of the planter box invites you to become part of the garden and its place of rest. Screwed into the frame is a small shelf to accommodate candles or act as a tray for a teapot and cups.

Painted in Dulux Prehistoric, the dark grey walls and contrasting green foliage

make the space seem larger. *Ficus microcarpa hillii* (Flash) was chosen for its fastigiate shape against the wall and is planted next to *Viburnum odoratissimum* (Sweet Viburnum) which has attractive white fragrant flowers. With its soft burgundy foliage, *Acer palmatum Dissectum* (Atropurpureum) was added as a feature tree.

The bamboo plants including *Himalayacamus porcatus* (Nepalese Blue) have a striking shape and form with a beautiful upright stem structure that creates a privacy screen at the rear of the pergola. The planter

box alongside contains *Drepanostachyum falcatum* (Himalayan Weeping) in a bed of cream pebbles. To prevent the bamboo from drying out, the planter boxes feature a pond liner filled with water.

With a brown underside and fragrant white flowers, the maples bring amazing contrasting foliage and spring colour to the design. The *Acubas* add variegated foliage with their shape and vigour up against the dark green glossy leaves of *Gardenia jasminoides* (Florida) which were flowering with a heavenly perfume at the time it was designed. Magnolias with

an interesting brown undertone on their leaves line the sides of the garden.

Adding to the tranquil feeling of this impressive garden, visitors to the space can enjoy the soft noises of the wind rustling through the bamboo leaves. **BH**

more info?

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