



TURNING JAPANESE

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

Photography Patrick Redmond

The hottest trend for outdoor spaces is incorporating a modern structure to really give the area that wow factor. Teaming pergolas and pavilions with impressive combinations of plants can really transform a space, adding 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 wood 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 macrocarpa hillii* 'Flash' was chosen for its fastigiate shape against the wall and is planted next to *Viburnum odoratissimum* 'Sweet Viburnum', which has fragrant and attractive white flowers. With its soft burgundy foliage, *Acer palmatum* 'Atropurpureum' was added as a feature tree.

The bamboo plants, which include *Himalayacalamus porcatius* 'Nepalese Blue', have a striking shape and form. Their beautiful



upright stem structure creates a privacy screen at the rear of the pergola. The planter box alongside contains *Drepanostachym falcatum* 'Himalayan Weeping' in a bed of cream pebbles. To prevent the bamboo from drying out, the planter boxes were lined with a pond liner filled with water.

Featuring a brown underside and fragrant white flowers, the maples bring amazing contrasting foliage and spring colour to the design. The shape and vigour of the variegated foliage complements the dark-green, glossy leaves of *Gardenia jasminoides* 'Florida', which was flowering with a heavenly perfume at the time the space was designed. Magnolias featuring 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. 🌿



For more information

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