

1 SYMMETRICAL DREAM

Make a bold statement in an all-green garden with oversized architectural plants either side of a minimal sculpture. Capital Marble cabbages make similar. B.C. cabbage palms, from £19.99, from The Palm Centre.

PLANNING THE PERFECT... *stylish urban* GARDEN

Fancy your own personal Eden Project? Over the next nine pages we'll guide you through more than 40 styles, products and design ideas to help you create a fabulous outdoor room.

2-3 Garden trends

CONTAINED WATER GARDENS

Forget about fountains, contained water gardens are the latest cool trend. Modern florist company Inwater recently created a display for London's Hempel hotel using vases of flowers set in ponds. Try the look at home by filling oversized stone bowls with water and aquatic plants of your choice. Contact Maidenhead Aquatics at Syon Park for plants and products.

MODERN WATER FEATURES

This glam frosted Perspex water tower, around £800, is perfect for indoors and out. It's by Waterwater, who've used this look to fab effect at Edinburgh's Glass Hotel. Light from below and place it in the centre of your garden for an illuminating focal point at night.



4 GET IN THE ZEN ZONE

A bold but simple planting scheme will turn heads in any small-space plot. This semi-formal layout has been created using a water feature as the focal point of the garden. The layout's pretty much symmetrical, with gravel either side of a central low hedge that leads the eye directly to the waterfall – all very Zen. White gravel, £100 per ton, Gone Gardening. For similar designs, seek advice at Woodhams.



5 ALL WHITE AND BLACK

A super-minimal monochrome scheme can do wonders for a small space. Here, skinny decking – try Hopping Softwood – laid vertically to the back of the house, gives an impression of extra length. For similar, call Joe Swift at The Plant Room.

6 THE ONLY WAY IS UP

If you're limited on space, a vertical hanging garden could be the answer. The Pershing Hall Hotel in Paris drapes its tall walls outdoors with cascades of lush greenery. Ask at garden centres for the best climbing plants for this effect. >>



7-8 Plant trends

SOFT, TEXTURAL PLANTS

Sam Joyce, from garden design company The Plant Room, believes: 'Planting is getting softer, moving away from minimal architectural plants to a mixture of texture and colour. People aren't so frightened of colour and will go for a splash of pink or orange.' This summer, try divine-smelling Chocolate Cosmos (left),

GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK

Florist Stephen Woodhams says green is the perfect colour for small gardens. 'Evergreens, like bamboo, throughout a garden create a seamless space.' Be inspired by the Laurent Perrier garden, co-designed by Terence Conran, at the Chelsea Flower Show, 25-28 May.

LIGHT SHOW

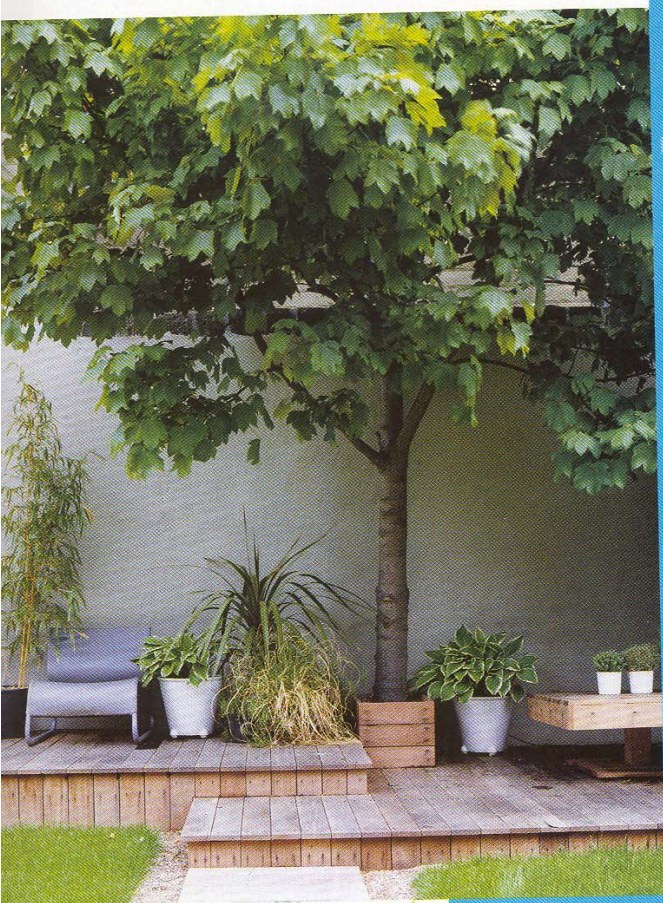
Architectural lighting can produce dramatic effects when used to highlight plants like this bamboo. It's been left to grow as high as the wall and the right lighting gives it the wow factor, especially at night. Unfussy wooden furniture and a simple layout give the garden a grown-up yet informal feel. To commission something similar, contact RK Alliston. For architectural lights, try John Cullen Lighting, and find wooden furniture at Outer Eden.

LEAN LINES

If you're faced with a narrow space, make the most of it with skinny furniture and planters. The table echoes the length of the planter, made specially for the space – a builder can do this. Try The Conran Shop for similar furniture. Windows Today sells awnings.

TAKE IT TO NEW LEVELS

This garden has been sculpted with long, raised beds laid around its edge to create an elegant space. The platform path has been designed so a stream-like pond can run underneath it. For a similar look, try Earth Designs.



12 THINK BIG AND SMALL

Have fun and play with scale to create interest in a neutral garden – here a tall, well-established tree contrasts well with a variety of potted plant sizes. For similar chairs and planters, try Ikea.

13 SEXY CURVES

This wide balcony garden has an adventurous layout, using curvy seating and a round table. The sky mirrored in the table-top throws off extra light. For a similar design, contact Andy Sturgeon, from £15,000.



Design Andy Sturgeon

14-15 Garden trends

RECYCLED FLOORING

Recycling is big news in gardens and there are some slick new products on the market. You can buy smart biodegradable pots that reduce waste levels, and Dalsouple has come up with an alternative to decking. Made using 100% recycled tyres, these rubber tiles are suitable for outdoors and are just what's needed to vamp up a dull space. Tiles, from £42 per sq m, Dalsouple.



16 MAKING SHAPES

Basic geometric shapes work well in a small space. They create a strong design statement that's not too fussy. The border of the garden has been packed with plants, freeing up the central space for entertaining. The brick wall is painted in Cream International Ranch, £10.98 for 750ml, B&Q. Find lookalike furniture at Cargo HomeShop. Clifton Nurseries does architectural plants, and buy an umbrella at Habitat, from £25. >>

Geometric shapes work well in a small space and create a strong design statement



Photography Wendy Latimer



GARDEN IDEAS

17-18 Lighting trends

LIGHTING UP A MIDNIGHT GARDEN

Florist-turned-perfumer Antonia Bellanca, whose scents are worn by Kate Winslet and Lisa Kudrow, says lighting's the next big thing in urban gardening:

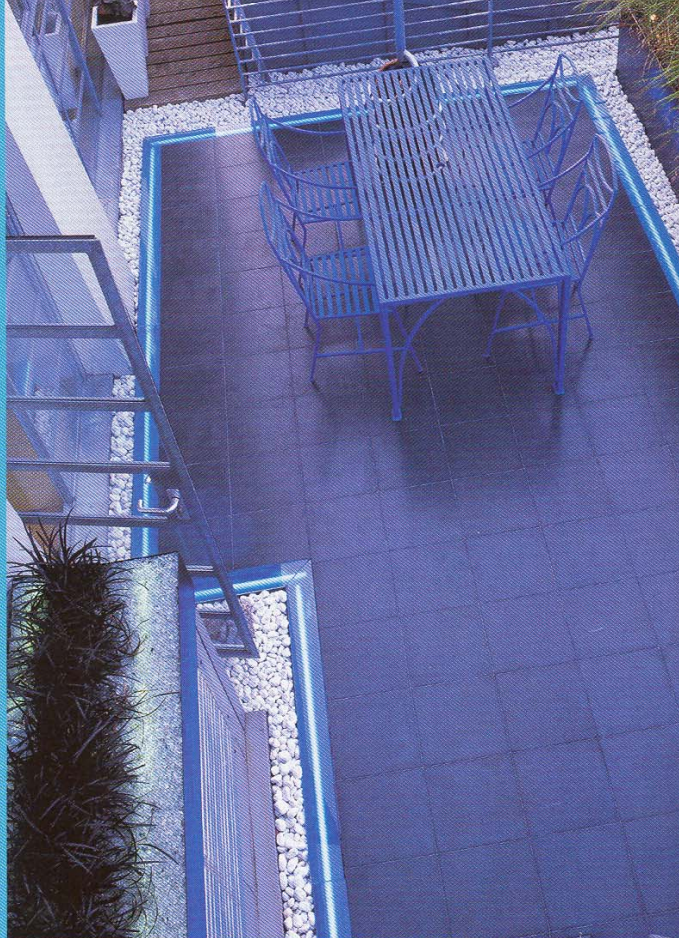
'It can give a real sense of architecture to a small space – and increases the amount of time you can spend there.' To make your garden come to life at night,

place hanging lanterns in trees, or inset in a wall to illuminate plants from behind. Try the Drive Over Light in satin stainless steel (above), £83.20, Charles Mason, or, for a quick lighting solution, the Lantern Garland Lights (right), £10, SKK Lighting. Also try stick lights along a path – visit Debenhams.



19 BLUE LINES

If you fancy a low-maintenance garden, create impact with lighting and keep plants to a bare minimum. This sleek and modern roof garden makes the most of contrasting textures and materials – from the dark stone tiles to a mixture of large and small pebbles – and the look is clean and attention-grabbing. The area for entertaining has been bordered by an electric-blue painted stripe. Contact Woodhams for a similar commission.

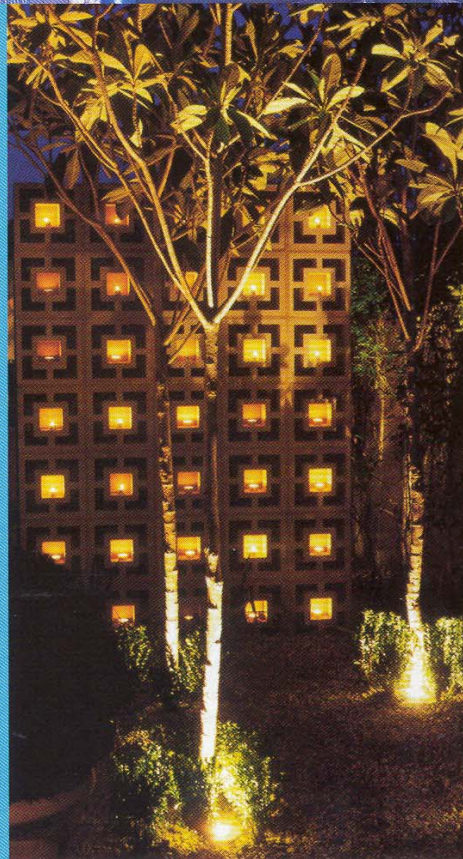


20 WALKING ON WATER

Jazz up a basement garden with a stylish floor display. Stone floor tiles have been turned into a water feature with gaps between the slabs to allow the water to run off the central square. Contact Mark Lutyens at Clifton Nurseries.

21 GOING FOR THE GLOW

Garden lighting can be simple but effective. A feature wall is made using decorative bricks, £4.56 each, Travis Perkins, with tea lights inside. Stock up on tea lights at Ikea. Garden design by Claire Mee Designs.



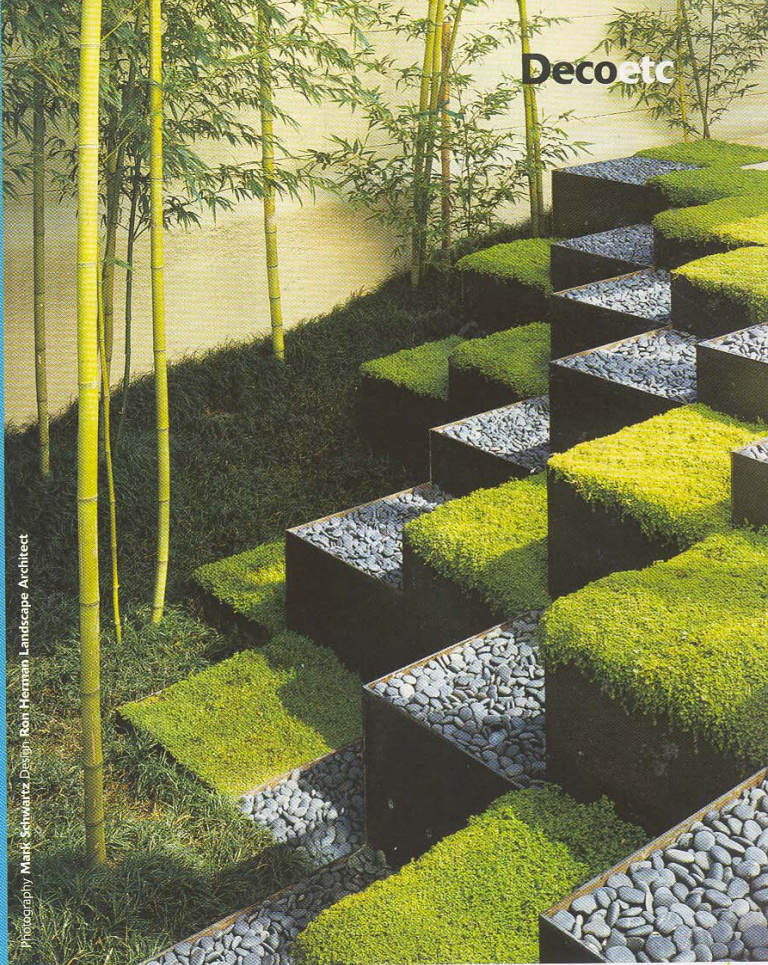


2 TAKE IT TO NEW HEIGHTS

Create an illusion of height with a super-tall back wall and big architectural plants, like these Canary palms. The symmetrical layout creates a focal point. For similar palms, try The Palm Centre.

THE MODERN ROCK GARDEN

For a twist on a trad look, try a modern rock garden. Each level is covered with contrasting textures. The result: a seriously hip look in a small area. Contact Ron Herman Landscape Architect.



Photography Mark Schwartz Design Ron Herman Landscape Architect

Overpowering colours tend to shrink a space, so go for walls painted in sandy shades



2 MOROCCO ON THE ROOF

Wooden decking, colourful cushions and a sail shade create a Moroccan effect in this stylish roof garden. Walls painted in a golden sandy shade add a hot, desert feel – Blush masonry paint from the Complements range by Leyland is a close match. A bamboo screen keeps out prying eyes and extends the height of the garden. Shade Sails in Desert Sand, from £49.99, Raw Garden, keep the sun's rays off and provide a final touch of steamy desert chic.

25-26 Garden trends

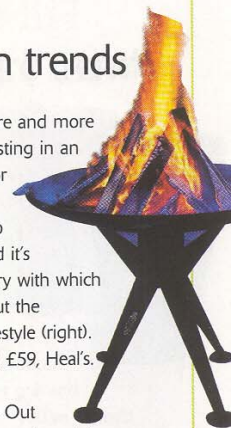
OUTDOOR FIRE PITS

Gardens are becoming more and more like outdoor rooms, so investing in an outdoor fire makes sense for chilly summer evenings. Hugh Grant is rumoured to have one in his garden, and it's definitely a red-hot accessory with which to impress guests. Check out the Deck Grill, £199, Mode Lifestyle (right). Alternatively, try the Brazier, £59, Heal's.

GARDEN SCULPTURES.

Leading on from last year's Out

There exhibition of bespoke outdoor sculpture at The Crafts Council, garden sculpture has hit the high street. Visit The Conran Shop, John Lewis and Outer Eden to name a few. For a one-off, contact the Crafts Council. Pierced sculpture, from £25, John Lewis. >>



GARDEN IDEAS

2 SINGING THE BLUES

Low walls at various heights create an illusion of width – and the different shades of blue help open up the space. Try RHS exterior paints, B&Q. Pierre Paulin chair, £712, Twentytwentyone.

2 IN AT THE DEEP END

For a modern water garden, set slate slabs at different levels to create a patchwork effect. Pick up hardwearing slate tiles at Rhino Rock. Wyevale does a good range of water plants.

Photography Paul Massey

Photography The Garden Picture Library Design Ron Sutherland

Fill small basement gardens with large-leaved evergreens for a truly luscious effect

2 DOWN IN THE BASEMENT

Mini basement gardens look good filled with luscious evergreens with huge leaves. If you don't have beds, then stock up on chic containers. A mural visually extends the garden up the stairs. Try Couture Gardens for similar designs.

2 BIG IN JAPAN

Easy to look after, relaxing to sit in – a Japanese-style gravel garden is the chic, modern choice. A geometric layout, a few planters and a square of decking is all you need. Get similar chairs at Urban Outfitters. B&Q sells gravel. Try Grosvenor Stone for stone balls.

Photography The Garden Picture Library Design Ron Sutherland



3 MODERN WHITEWASH

Put a fresh spin on a formal garden with shrubs in tall planters. A white backdrop adds a modern edge – try B&Q masonry paint in brilliant white, £14.98 for 5l. Similar designs by Charlotte Sanderson.

3 WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT

A wall of cut eucalyptus trunks provides an organic backdrop for this Australian-themed garden. Tropical plants pretty things up. Garden designed by Jim Fogarty for the Chelsea Flower Show.



Decoetc



34 GO FOR PURE AND SIMPLE

For understated elegance, paint a back wall a bold shade – try Sweet Sherry masonry paint, £19.98 for 5l, Leyland. A sliding glass door brings the outdoors in, and the polished stone floor helps extend the interior. Decoration is minimal – simple birch trees set in slate chippings and a low, leafy border. Crocus sells birch trees, and Clifton Nurseries does bags of slate chippings. Check out the polished Gascogne Beige limestone flooring, from £78 per m, Ceramica & Stone.

34-35 Furniture trend

DUAL-PURPOSE DESIGNS

Space-saving multifunctional pieces are getting all the glory these days. B&B Italia has brought out the Lazy outdoor chair that transforms into a chaise longue. And Eva Solo's clever dual-purpose barbecue (right), from £325, combines grill and eating surface in one – when you've finished cooking, simply place the steel lid on top, and, hey presto, you have a patio table. **BEAUTIFULLY HAND-CRAFTED.**

Crafts are big news, from Chanel launching dresses adorned with intricate stitchwork to hand-carved furniture for the garden. Modern designs using traditional methods are making a comeback – we fancy this oak Loveseat for our gardens, £1,950, Jake Phipps Furniture Design. >>

