

# Garden project







#### **10 LIVES HERE**

mers: Jozer Calara, 30, Declan Burke, 29

fessions: Banking and research

e of property: Ground floor apartment in aced house

cation: Balham, London ed here since: May 2006

## ROJECT PROFILI

#### implete garden redesign

ild route: Garden designer ild time: Four weeks

luation at start of project

007): Around £370,000 st of project: £25,000

w valuation (2008): £411,000

#### ST BREAKDOWN

cking: Around £6,300 nts: £4,500

tdoor furniture: £3.000

hting: £3,000 untain: £1,000

ges: £700

orage unit: £1,500

ADDED VALUE £16,000!

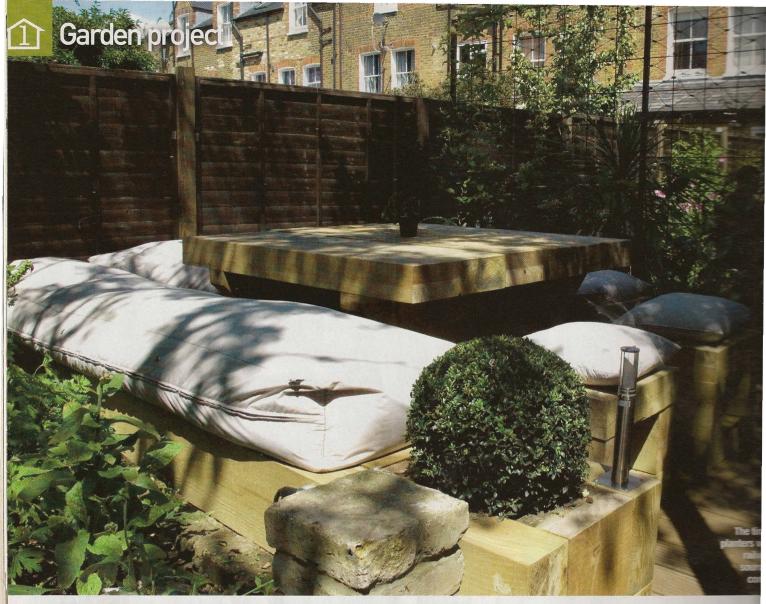


When Declan Burke and Jozer Calara bought their ground floor flat, its garden needed work to make it the low-maintenance, sociable space they were after

aced with a bland expanse of lawn at the back of their flat, Declan and Jozer were desperate to enhance the view and make more of their outdoor space. However, their initial ideas soon changed once they took on an experienced garden designer.

'When we were looking to buy a flat a couple of years ago, we desperately wanted one with a garden,' explains Declan. 'I grew up surrounded by countryside so, living in London, I needed at least some green space.

'We didn't touch the garden until about a year after we moved in. It was pretty uninteresting with a large expanse of grass and a small decked area, which measured around 5x16m in total. We don't have a separate dining room in the flat so our main motivation was to create an area that we could use for entertaining, but also one that wouldn't need too much maintenance we knew we wouldn't have a lot of spare time to spend working out there so it needed to be able to look after itself.





### Create a relaxing space

Form private areas enclosed by trellis and climbers such as sweet peas and passion flowers. Light will still be able to come through but you'll still have privacy.

Adding a focal point to your space, such as a sculpture or fountain, or even a wigwam of runner beans, helps the eye to rest on one thing and not flit about, creating the perfect place for rest and relaxation.

◀ The eye-catching water feature is a focal point in the garden. A similar, right-angled, handmade, stainless steel model at 115cm high will cost you £1,101 from FeatureDECO

'We decided the best route would be to hire a garden design company so it could plan and organise the work for us. We basically scoured the internet and came across Earth Designs. The transformations on its website were incredible, so we got in touch.

'After our first meeting with designer Katrina, our ideas did change. We initially thought about laying new turf and creating a larger seating area. She came back to us with two designs one along those lines and a far more adventurous one that seemed a far better solution. There was no lawn to maintain, but loads of interest with decked walkways through planted sections, a water feature and plenty of tables and chairs. We just decided to go for it.

'The work only took about four weeks to complete with three people on it making a lot less mess than we had expected. Luckily there's access at the bottom of the garden so nothing had to be carried through the house. Earth Designs organised everything, from the plants and decking to the installation of a power supply for the water feature.

'Katrina suggested that we go for more mature planting to create impact straight away.

Of course this meant we had to incre budget, which was originally \$22,000 made a huge difference and was def right decision. There's a mix of season so the garden will look good all year evergreen shrubs and spring and sur flowering plants such as lavender be and montbretia. The decking is hard won't need constant maintenance, a and cubed stools were constructed railway sleepers.

'The view from our living room has completely. The 6ft high water feature main focal point and your eye is dra wire cages, which will eventually be jasmine and honeysuckle. A mix of fi and spotlights means we can use the late into the night.

'The finished garden is more than hoped for. As well as entertaining free outside to eat breakfast and now this extra room of the house. A few plant to be replaced because they've been by foxes but there's very little else the to do, which is exactly what we were

#### **PROJECT CONTACTS**

Design and build Earth Designs: www.earthdesigns.co.uk 020 8521 904

# Garden project 3







Tara Walsh, Peter Niland and their

ssions: Company directors

of property: Four-bed detached house

tion: Wanstead, London here since: 2000

## ROJECT PROFILE

arden redesign including me office

uild route: Garden design

mpany uild time: 2-3 months

luation at start of pject (2006): £1,200,000 ost of project: £52,000 ew valuation: £1,300,000

**IST BREAKDOWN** 

rden office: £22,000 anting: £8,000 chways: £3,000 ater feature: £2,500 hting: £4,000

# helps it blends in well with the garden We transformed our garden and added a home office

Having updated and extended their family home, Tara and Peter set their sights on improving their large garden with a play area, an entertaining space and home office

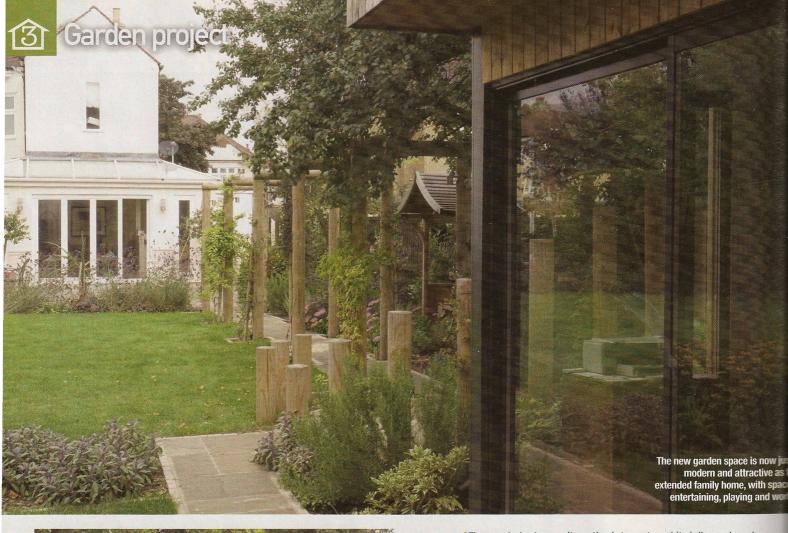
ara and Peter Walsh employed a garden designer to re-work their outdoor space. They didn't want to radically alter the layout but needed help prioritising their needs.

'We'd extended our house up and out,' Tara explains of their four-bedroom house in Wanstead, so next on the list of improvements was the garden. There was nothing drastically wrong with it, but the lawn was always cluttered with the children's toys, and the

patio by the house was small and had seen better days. With the new sliding doors from the extension leading onto the patio, we wanted to make more of it.

'Neither of us are keen gardeners, so we knew we'd have to employ a garden designer. Luckily, a friend recommended Earth Designs so we didn't have the stress of finding one ourselves.

'We had a consultation with Katrina from the company, who then started working on plans.





The new design by Katrina at Earth Designs included a path between the enlarged patio and the outbuilding. Katrina devised a series of tall archways made from chunky wooden posts at intervals along the path, with a stainless steel water feature at the end to form a stunning focal point

However, in the meantime I went to a property exhibition and saw some fabulous glass outbuildings designed by Garden Lodges. Peter works from home and we'd been considering ways to create an office away from the main house, so one of these seemed perfect. I went back to Katrina and ask her to incorporate this into our design.

'It's actually worked brilliantly. The original patio has been replaced by a larger one using sandstone slabs. A matching path leads from there, down the left-hand side of the garden to a circle of paving in front of the office. At first, I

wasn't convinced and thought it may just look like a path to nowhere, but with the stainless steel water feature positioned at the end, it really does draw your eye and create interest.

'There's still a large area of lawn but the children now have their own play area. It's at the back of the garden and divided off from the main lawn with a wide flowerbed. Katrina moved some of our existing Sky Rocket conifers to help screen off this part of the garden. I also got a large climbing frame for the children's area, which was inspired by one I saw at a hotel we'd stayed at. I searched for the company that made it on the internet and it delivered and assen the frame on site.

'Earth Designs project managed all the for us and consulted with Garden Lodges ordinate the build. We have access at the the property so we weren't disrupted much there was very little that we had to do, it all very smoothly. There were up to three peop from Garden Lodges working on the home and three more working on the garden so about 2-3 months for the work to be comp

'Although Katrina ran all the ideas past u were happy to let her get on with it. We have little expertise when it comes to gardening. we relied on her to come up with a plan that would work for us and be low maintenance

'We've had one summer with the new g but now it's more mature, we're looking for to enjoying it this year. It's a cliché, but a we designed garden really is an extension of y home. Downlighters on the posts and spot in the beds mean we can be out there late! the evening. It caters for all our needs - the children, an office for Peter and an social a

'I'd certainly recommend using a garder designer. It's just like using an architect for extension - you're paying them for their idand experience.'

#### PROJECT CONTACTS

Design and build Earth Designs: www.earthdesigns.co.uk 020 8521 9040 Home office Garden Lodges: www.gardenlodges.co.uk