



garden profile

## Green scene

Lush, leafy and private, this recently renovated rear garden evokes a sense of serenity.

Words: Kerri Russell  
Photos: Peter Riddell

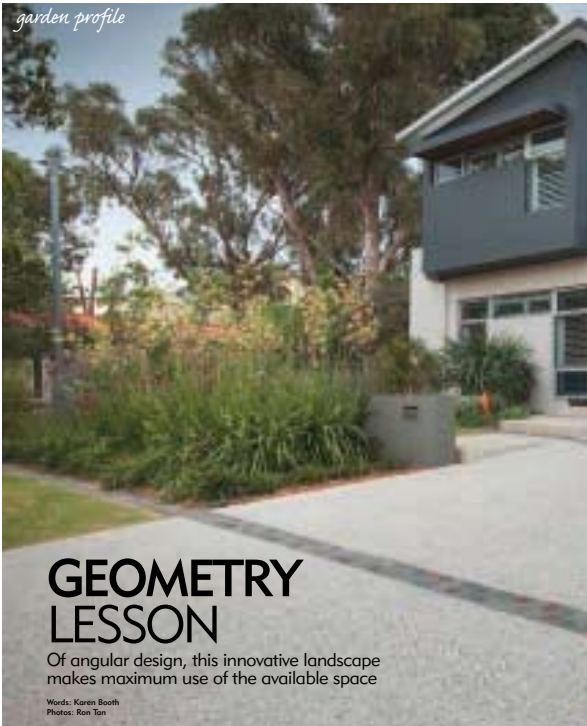


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"The transformation of this space has been a huge success."



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## GEOMETRY LESSON

Of angular design, this innovative landscape makes maximum use of the available space

Words: Karen Booth  
Photos: Ron Tan



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contributes a softer look and surface upon which to sit and contemplate.

To match the existing cream-coloured boundary fences, Kerri had fast-growing tall hedges of *Viburnum adonastimum* planted in front of them along the home's northern boundary and Golden Cone palms around the alfresco area. The garden is only a year old, but in another year the cream fences will barely be noticeable.

The planting was designed to be as low maintenance and sustainable as possible, which is why Kerri made water-wise plant choices and added sufficient soil conditioner, soil-wetting agents and mulch to promote strong, healthy growth. This is also why there's no lawn in the alfresco courtyard area (less

lawn means less water consumption) and there are shade trees to cool the garden.

"I like to use Australian natives and mix them in with the exotics, always taking care to use plants I know will perform in the environment that I am going to put them in," says Kerri. "I'm a huge fan of the big red kangaroo paw and  *Dianella* as well as mature *Fraxionis*, which create an instant canopy for summer but let an architectural light through in winter. They are also perfect for when you want to create a focus, as is a mature *Drosera* *atrica*, one of which was used at the front as a feature offset against the stone wall."

*Pyrus calleryana* "Capital", a popular ornamental pear, was used to offset the tall,

narrow windows at the back of the house.

"These fitted into the narrow space, hide the awful fence and create a soft outlook from the windows," explains Kerri. "I'd always like to add a citrus tree and some herbs somewhere, too, which in this instance I have incorporated into the sunny front garden."

For Kerri, designing a space that will be used frequently is always a priority. That means including plenty of seating and room to move. Says Kerri: "I want to create a feeling of invitation, where people want to come out into the garden and move around the space. I want people to be a part of the garden." In this contemporary garden in the Perth suburbs, Kerri has achieved all of this and more. ■

BACKYARD & GARDEN DESIGN IDEAS 69

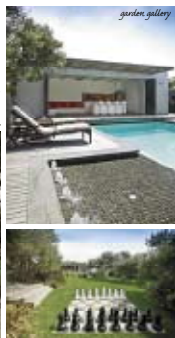
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## COASTAL SURPRISE

Displaying great respect for indigenous plant species, this garden is truly Australian.



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words, "I think it's important to have a sense of place. The garden is a reflection of the house and the surrounding environment. It's a space that is both functional and beautiful. It's a space that is truly Australian."

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## SKY HIGH

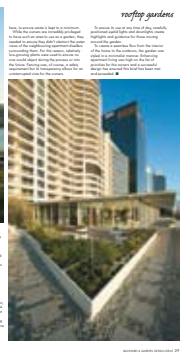
A rooftop garden amid a concrete jungle provides a refreshing respite in a busy world.

rooftop gardens



"A unique garden and outdoor living space"

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