



create the garden

- 1 Sculpture is a personal choice and adds an individual element to the garden. *Curve* is crafted from Corten steel and was custom made for the site. Available from Garden Life. Expect to pay about \$2750 for a similar piece.
- 2 With white, lemon-scented flowers for most of the year and spectacular glossy, evergreen foliage, *Magnolia Little Gem* is ideal for screening or as a small feature tree. It will grow to about five metres in 10 years or can be maintained as a medium to tall hedge. Some supplementary water is needed in dry spells and it grows best in well-prepared soil. From Eden Gardens for \$250 in a 45-litre container.
- 3 Masonry walls provide security and privacy, and reduce the noise from passing traffic. Ensure your wall is professionally engineered and complies with your local council regulations.
- 4 Ideal for narrow planting spaces where height is needed, *Cordyline glauca* also lends a tropical feel to the garden. Trim if stems grow too tall and to create a thicker branching habit. Grows in sun or light shade. Available from Eden Gardens for \$27.95 in a 200mm pot.
- 5 Soften hard architectural lines with luminous, contrasting smooth white pebbles that invite touch. Arctic White 75mm x 100mm pebbles are \$40 for a 20kg bag from Eco Concepts.
- 6 Water adds life to a garden and is reticulated from a hidden reservoir beneath the pebbles to the bowl with a low-voltage pump. The Contemporary Low Bowl from Garden Life measures 1100mm x 300mm and costs \$1425.
- 7 Hardy bromeliads are architecturally shaped, many with bright foliage and flowers. Many varieties are sun hardy and can be combined with succulents for amazing botanical effect. Vrieseas are available from Eden Gardens with prices from \$34.95.
- 8 Large format pavers display the natural beauty of stone to full effect. It's a naturally occurring material so expect and appreciate variations in colour. Lay Peperino 600mm x 600mm x 20mm basalt tiles on a concrete slab. \$140 a square metre from Amber Tiles.

paving grace

An enclosed front courtyard creates a welcoming haven for visitors, writes Michael Cooke.

Photography Peter Brennan

An informal hedge of glossy evergreen magnolias provides the backdrop to this pocket-sized front courtyard in Randwick. Traditionally, inner-city gardens have been viewed from the street, with a narrow direct path to the front door. In this case, the enclosed private space has been rearranged so that visitors enjoy the garden rather than just walk along a pathway.

Particular care has been taken with the placing of the water bowl, which is the focal point for visitors and is on a sight line from the hallway. Drought-tolerant succulents of contrasting shapes and hues have been positioned under the overhanging veranda eaves.

The house is owned by Matt Cantwell and Rochelle Abood, founders of Secret Gardens of Sydney. The couple's small children delight in the water feature, redistributing the pebbles and getting wet. On summer evenings, the courtyard is a good place to wander barefoot with a drink in hand, with the paving stones retaining the warmth of the day.

michael's tip

Grow basil. It's a warm season annual herb so plant seedlings in a warm, sunny spot or in pots at least 200mm wide. Remove the central tip when picking to create tasty, bushy plants.



Stockists

Amber Tiles
42 Frenchs Forest Road,
Seaforth.
Phone: 9949 6600.
www.ambertiles.com.au

Eco Concepts
7 Danks Street,
Waterloo.
Phone: 1300 131 413.
www.ecoconcepts.com.au

Eden Gardens
301-307 Lane Cove Road,
North Ryde.
Phone: 9491 9900.
www.edengardens.com.au

Garden Life
373 Liverpool Street,
Darlinghurst.
Phone: 9332 1199.
www.gardenlife.com.au