

WEEKEND DECORATOR EASY PROJECTS TO ADD VINTAGE GLAM

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**52. Use a narrow** plant for a narrow spot. In this Secret Gardens-designed backyard, Matthew Cantwell utilised slender weaver bamboo as a fast-growing screen to block out a neighbouring house and shade the 'Sushi' outdoor table from Fanuli Furniture.

## party plan

This outdoor space delivers a wealth of ideas for alfresco dining and soirees under the stars

WORDS DONYLE HARRISON PHOTOGRAPHY NICK WATT



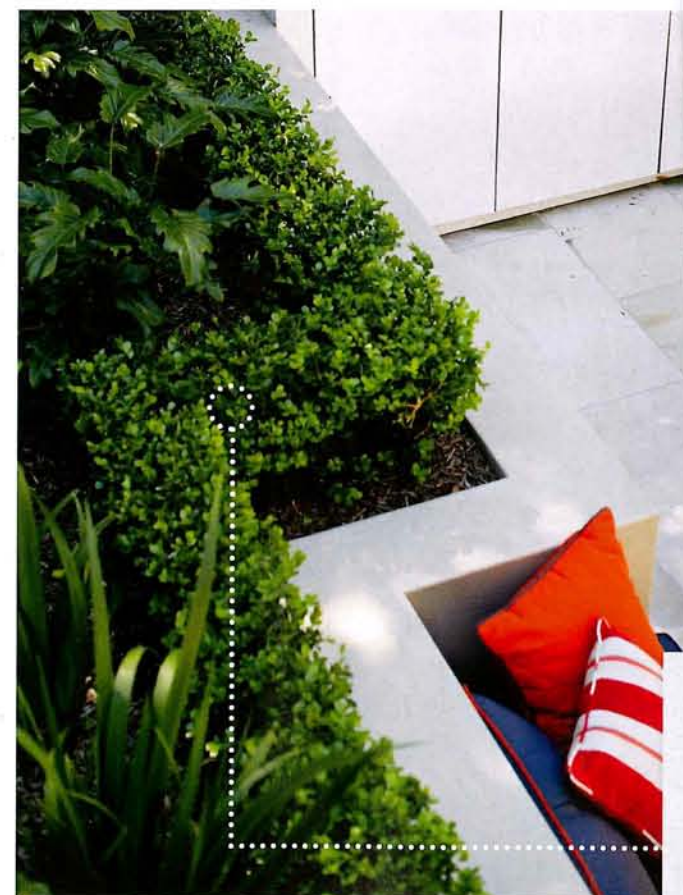
**53. Give space** where it's needed. Because the pool is a kid-magnet, the terraced surrounding area is large enough for parents and children to set up camp for a long afternoon.



**54. Create shade** in summer. In addition to the existing evergreen xylosma tree shading the pool, a row of flowering chanticleer pears blooms behind the pergola.



**55. Consistent** finishes unify a design. All masonry walls throughout the garden are painted in Wattyl 'Solagard' low-sheen with a custom Berry Stone shade by Lick Light + Colour.



**56. Take advantage** of winter warmth. The north-facing pool catches the sun in the cooler months and the pergola is slatted to allow in as much light and heat in chilly conditions.

**57. Hedges create** great structure and provide evergreen backdrops. Try Japanese box hedge, lilly pilly, viburnum and *Raphiolepis indica* 'Oriental Pearl'. >



**58. Splurge where** it counts. The outdoor kitchen features cabinetry built from Alucobond with a Quarella benchtop and Electrolux barbecue. The family spends so much time eating outdoors, the cost is worth it for effect, convenience and durability.



**59. Keep stairs wide** and low, to suit everyone from grandparents to toddlers. Visitors can concentrate on the garden, rather than navigating the steps.



**61. Choose** pots that complement tiles and pavers. This pot (\$624) from Quatro Design, planted with zoysia tenuifolia, is made of matt white ceramic.



**62. Separate your zones.** The family's two kids love to play around the cubby house and sunny lawn, and can be easily seen from the pool area.



**63. Inject a** splash of colour and unify a multi-dimensional space with accessories. Here, the citrus-toned cushions tie in with the custom-made striped cushions from Terrace (from \$160ea).

**64. Suit your** design to the site. Matthew needed a classic structure and scheme to fit the neighbourhood, but kept a modern balance with his choice of paving, structures and accessories. >

**65. Make the most** of every space. The top of the garage has been transformed into a paved garden area, which is shaded by a jacaranda tree. Adding a table and chairs (seek similar from Domayne) creates a spot perfect for a quiet cuppa.

**66. Use plants** for fragrance. Clivias, irises, moraeas, cardamom and jasmine flower sequentially. Flowering pears, lilly pillies, hydrangeas and viburnum add to the blooms and release perfume at shrub and tree height.

## Contact

Matthew Cantwell  
of Secret Gardens,  
(02) 9314 5333,  
secretgardens.  
com.au.

**67. Grow** useful plants. Herbs on the sunny side of the barbecue terrace provide fresh flavours for the outdoor kitchen, not to mention delicious scents.

**68. Everything can** be decorative. Low steel planters were used for the herb bed, and white bamboo structures from Terrace (\$35ea) for climbing herbs and vegetables.

**69. Choose a palette** that works double duty. Here, white not only flows on directly from the house, but also fills the garden with light throughout the year.