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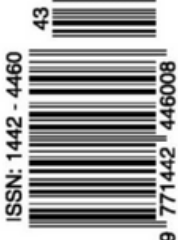
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GREEN ON GREEN

With a restrained planting palette and an emphasis on lush layers, this garden is a place of endless serenity



The luxuriant gardens to the side and rear of this Adelaide home aren't just a source of joy for the owners. They provide the littlest member of the family – Max the Frug (a French Bulldog-Pug mix) – with places to explore and shady spots to snooze in.

When the homeowners approached landscape architect Peter Adley, director of Yardstick Landscapes, and Nick Scaife, fellow director and construction coordinator, they had a clear vision. "They wanted a structured rear garden with clean lines and green-on-green foliage. For the side garden, they wanted a relaxed, shaded space which would provide a stunning view from the large opening window and window seat," says Peter.

Peter's approach to the design was restrained and ordered, yet softened with foliage. The look is timeless and the perfect complement to the the home extension designed and built by Glasshouse Projects.

"The strong geometry and clever spatial arrangement of the generous back garden expands on the covered alfresco entertaining space. Materials such as the charcoal-coloured concrete paving flow from the home and front garden through to the boundary fence, creating a sense of cohesion," says Peter.

Yet it is the plants that knit everything together and form the backbone of the garden. "This is a foliage garden with layers of green and just a few flowering plants which all flower white. It is all about texture and structure," says Peter.

Noted for its ability to thrive in locations of varying light, Japanese box (*Buxus microphylla* 'Japonica') is the main hedging plant. Second-tier hedging is provided by that very hardy shrub, sandankwa viburnum (*Viburnum suspensum*).

Japanese aralia (*Fatsia japonica* 'Spider's Web') was planted with peace lily (*Spathiphyllum* sp.) en masse in the

shady raised bed. The sleek, dark green leaves of the peace lily are a counterpoint to the variegated, palmate-leaved aralia. Opposite, New Zealand rock lily (*Arthropodium cirratum*) softens the clipped hedges and hardscape.

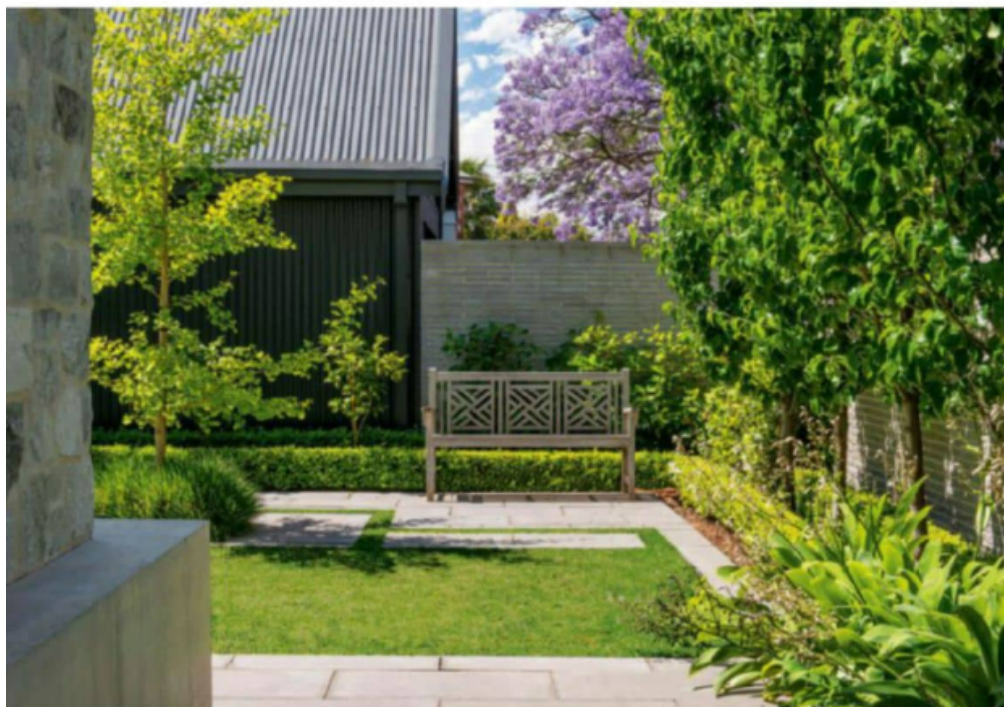
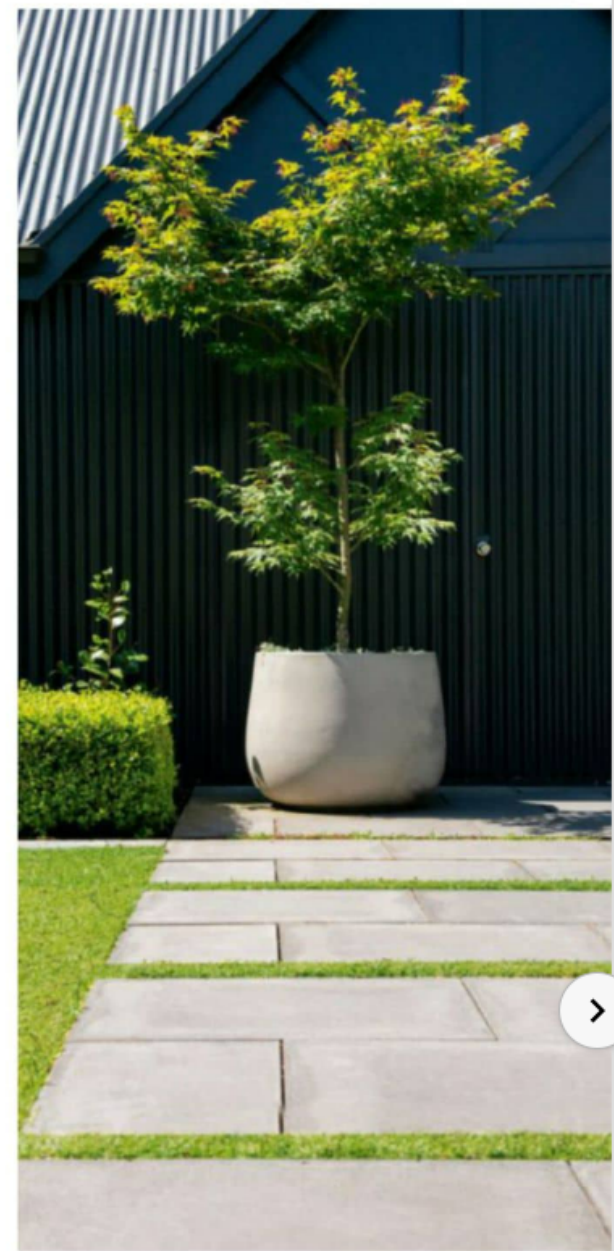
The southern wall of the garage faces the alfresco area. This provides enough shelter for the emerging *Camellia sasanqua* (sasanqua camellia) and the potted Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*). The ornamental pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Capital') against the boundary references the planting in the front garden and provides screening for the only section of the garden without a view of a tree beyond.

There is also a ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) feature tree which, in time, will provide shade for a timber seat the owners can use to just sit, relax and enjoy the serenity of a garden that is leafy and endlessly engaging.

"The features we did use are strategically placed on sight lines but we employed plant



PETER ADLEY
Landscape Architect
& Director,
Yardstick Landscapes



life instead of artwork. Restraint was critical. We wanted the garden to harmonise with the built form of the impressive modern extension, not detract from it," says Peter.

It seems Peter and Nick achieved their goal most convincingly, with the judges of the 2022 MLSA Awards of Excellence naming Yardstick Landscapes the winner of the Residential Landscape Design Under \$70,000 for this effortlessly elegant, forever green garden in prestigious Rose Park.

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