

CLEAN LIVING

CATHERINE CLANCY INSPIRED GARDENS

A poorly used L-shaped garden cum storage area was spruced up and turned into a clean, simple space with a limited range of plants for ease of maintenance and low visual noise

A shady, overgrown, north facing garden where space was at a premium was to be extended into a redundant parking area to the side of the house and given a contemporary makeover to make better use of the space and daylight available.

In order to achieve this, yellow granite paving, cream rendered walls, hardwood storage seating and a custom-built gate, bin store and slimline shed were incorporated into the design. Planting needed to be low maintenance with space for bright seasonal bedding and low voltage garden lights were specified to turn this courtyard garden into a very unusual night time eating and entertaining area.

Client brief and project details

The existing garden was very overgrown and dark and the space was not well utilised. It was split into two main spaces with a seating area outside the main bedroom and a parking and storage area to

the side. With car parking at the front of the house, this extra driveway was unnecessary and consequently only used for storage.

The garden is not overlooked, making it very private and the client hoped that it could be turned into a bright, chic courtyard space. Looking beyond the overgrown, gloomy and cluttered garden to visualise an open bright chic courtyard would make a challenging project.

Client's requirements

- Turn the garden into a bright, chic courtyard space, reflecting the bright, modern and uncluttered interior of the house.
- Combine the two areas to create a usable outdoor space.
- Take into consideration the requirements of a young family and a small boy with a bicycle who needed somewhere to pedal around. →



DESIGN PLAN

PROJECT DETAILS

Project value
£25k

Build time
Design: May 2010
Garden landscaping completed: Sept 2010

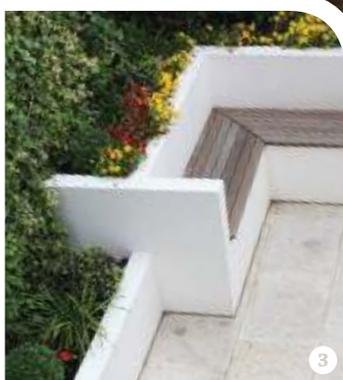
Size of project
65m²
(L-shaped garden)



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- Incorporate storage for tools, bins and toys.
- Accommodate two parents who wanted somewhere to sit outside in the evening, eat and entertain.
- Planting needed to be very low maintenance, including roses and lavender if possible as well as some herbs for cooking.
- Lights were required to enhance the planting and allow the garden to be used in the evening.
- Irrigation was needed for the planting beds.

The plan

The garden was designed to make a chic and secluded private courtyard in which the young family could relax and play. Most of the vegetation was removed to open up the space and create light, keeping just the ivy on the back wall. Raised beds with



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incorporated seating and storage space were created and painted white to further the airy feel. The planting plan incorporated roses, lavender and herbs as per the wishes of the client.

To further this light, spacious and airy effect, pale stone paving was used while the white-painted raised beds created neat planting spaces and also provided for the seating and storage. The planting was kept very simple and limited to a few species for ease of maintenance and to provide an unfussy, tranquil mood. The design incorporated a combined corner seat and storage box for adult evening use and also storing toys. Also with children in mind, the paving was kept on one level so it could be used to cycle around.

The bin store, gate and shed were all custom designed and built out of beautiful hardwood and made into design features. The gate was reduced to a single width and hidden bin stores were designed to fit in with it.

Plants

Box balls and clipped bay were used to provide evergreen structure in the planting beds. The rest of the plants were restricted to seven varieties, for ease of maintenance. Bedding in season was used to fill in the gaps in the planting beds.

PLANTING LIST

Catherine used the following plants in her cottage style design:

Trees

- Acer dissectum purpureum

Shrubs

- Buxus sempervirens
- Laurus nobilis std
- Nandina domestica
- Pittosporum 'Tom thumb' 450mm balls
- Rosa Silver Anniversary and Red Abundance



Perennials

- Agapanthus 'Big Blue', 'Blue Storm' and 'Double diamond'
- Lavender 'Munstead'
- Liriope 'Big Blue'

Herbs

- Chives, thyme, mint, sage, rosemary in pots on the balcony

Bulbs

- Daffodil 'Thalia' and paperwhite
- Blue muscari
- Allium 'Purple Sensation'
- Purple crocus



Bedding

- Pansies in winter



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ABOUT CATHERINE CLANCY



Catherine moved into garden design from IT nine years ago. She studied at the English Gardening School and for the RHS Dip Hort at Hadlow College and has created award winning gardens and featured on BBC TV. Catherine creates each garden in response to the client's needs and the characteristics of the site. Her gardens have an organic structure and wherever possible are made sustainable by using local materials, encouraging wildlife and vegetable growing.

www.catherineclancy.com

REFERENCES

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 Web www.geo-contracts.co.uk

Yellow hammered granite paving stone
CED Stone Group
 728 London Road,
 West Thurrock,
 Grays, Essex RM20 3LU.
 Tel 01708 867 237
 Email sales@ced.ltd.uk
 Web www.ced.ltd.uk

Building materials
Travis Perkins
 Web www.travisperkins.co.uk

Soil, shrubs, trees
Provender Nurseries Ltd
 The Landscape Centre,
 Leydenhatch Lane,
 Swanley, Kent BR8 7PS
 Tel 01322 662 315
 Email enquiries@provendernurseries.co.uk
 Web www.provendernurseries.co.uk

Lights
Lighting for Gardens Limited
 7-8 Amor Way,
 Letchworth Garden City,
 Hertfordshire SG6 1UG
 Tel 01462 486 777
 Email sales@lightingforgardens.com
 Web www.lightingforgardens.com

Garden furniture
Rattan furniture (client's own)
 The fencing was built on site to my design using hardwood

Hardwood
Round Wood Timber
 Newick Lane, Mayfield,
 East Sussex TN20 6RG
 Tel 01435 867 072
 Web www.roundwood.com



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