

When looking out from the residence, the roof line leads the eye to the vertical garden.



A true original

*Imaginative, innovative, inspired...
there is no shortage of adjectives
to describe this design*



“The courtyard is viewed from almost every downstairs room in the house, so it had to look good from all angles”

ABOVE Excellent use has been made of the vertical spaces to introduce interest and plant life.

OPPOSITE TOP A circular opening in the roof allows the owners to view the canopy of the poinciana.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM By introducing levels into the garden, it adds a sense of increased depth and dimension.

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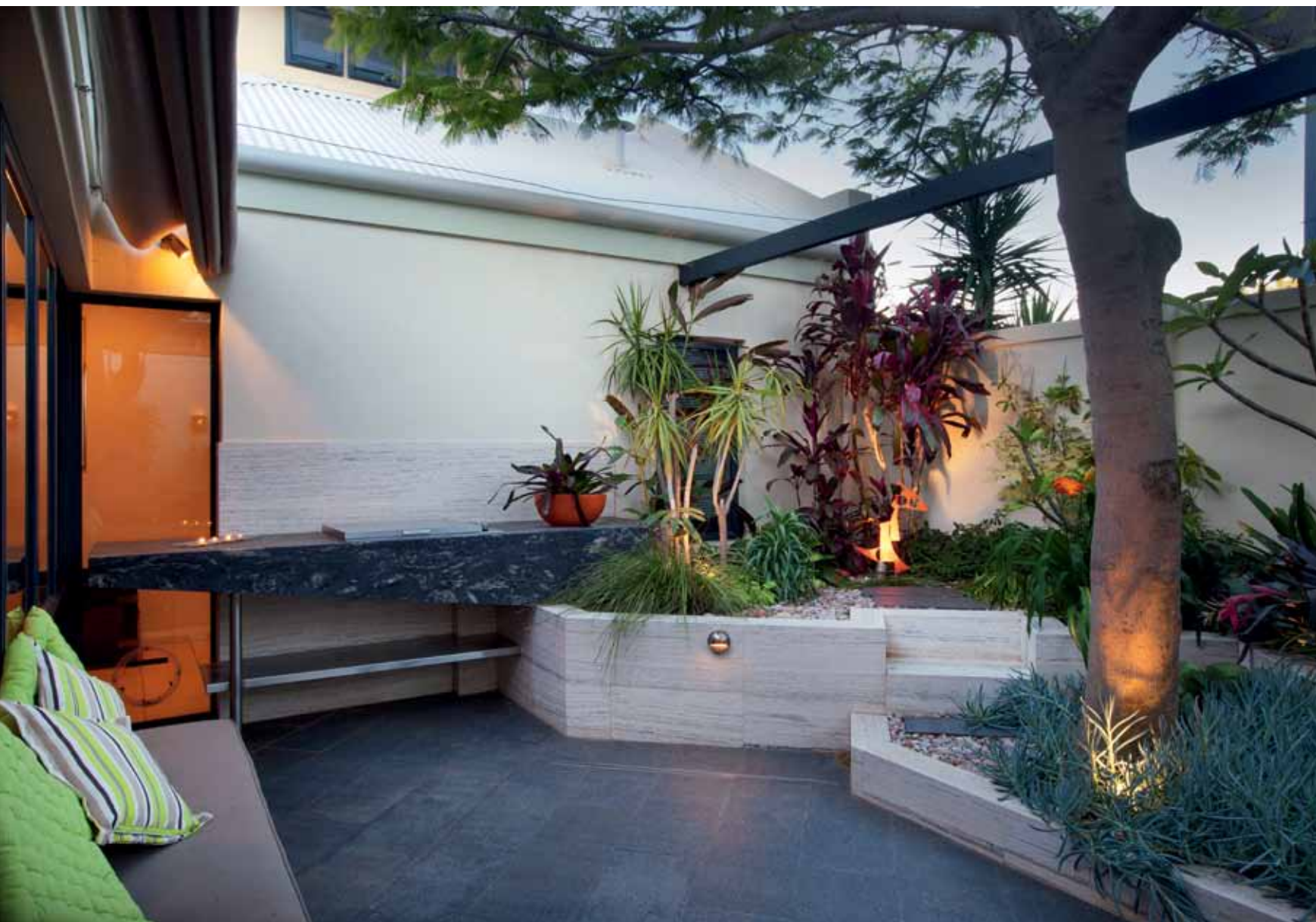
aking the most of the vertical planes is one of the keys to smart small-space garden design. Introducing levels and employing

built-in elements are two more. All of these tricks of the trade have been taken to new heights of innovation in this award-winning Perth courtyard, designed by Linda Green, principal of Hidcote Landscapes.

“The first thing I had to take into account was that it was the main outdoor area for the property and therefore needed to be a multifunctional space, incorporating outdoor dining, a barbecue and garden areas to invite interaction with nature,” says Linda. “In addition, the courtyard is viewed from almost every downstairs room in the house, so it had to look good from all angles and provide interest day and night throughout the whole year.”

The back of the house features floor-to-ceiling glass, so interior and exterior living spaces have a strong link. The glass is shaded by retractable overhead awnings in summer, which are then pulled back to allow maximum sunshine in winter. “The awnings are suspended on stainless steel wires attached to a modern, slimline steel structure. The steel structure also provides a





ABOVE caption here caption here
RIGHT A fragrant frangipani is one of several striking feature plants which are uplit at night.
OPPOSITE TOP The home's floor-to-ceiling glass ensures that indoor and outdoor spaces feel connected.
OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT The vertical garden, which is planted with bromeliads, is the focal point of the design.
OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT Colourful cushions turn this bench seat into a comfy spot from which to view the garden.



framework for the roof, lined with marine ply, which is centred over double glass doors," explains Linda.

"When the awnings are extended, however, the canopy of a beautiful poinciana tree can't easily be seen, so I designed an ocular, or skylight, into the roof which has the bonus of actually highlighting the lush green foliage or the tracery of the branches, depending on the season."

Below the roof is an expanse of timber decking. When viewed from inside the house, these elements draw the eye out to the pond, which is backed by a striking vertical garden planted with bromeliads.

"At night, this looks particularly dramatic, as the pond lighting and movement of the rippling water created by the fountain cast interesting shadows up onto the walls of the vertical garden. The shimmering colours of the goldfish add to the drama, as they are seen through a glass panel at the front of the pond," says Linda.

Nestled into one end of the garden is a custom-designed, tapering granite bench, into which a low-profile gas barbecue is set. The bench extends across one of the raised garden beds, which were introduced

to reduce the impact of the high courtyard walls and add visual interest.

The walls of the raised garden beds, the pond, the vertical garden and the lower portions of the courtyard wall are all clad in Turkish travertine, visually tying all of these features together.

"Quite a wide palette of plants have been used to provide a succession of different flowers throughout the year, however, care has been taken to select plants that complement each other so that the overall effect is harmonious," explains Linda. "Just some of the sub-tropical and tropical plants used include frangipani, lime, dracaena, ginger, clivia and day lilies. Then there is Stephanotis floribunda, Brunfelsia 'White Magic', Chonemorpha fragrans and Chinese star jasmine, which provide perfume and entice birds into the garden."

By paying close attention to detail, Linda has created a visually stimulating space that is enjoyed every day of the year. Also, it seems the judges of the 2012 Landscape Industries of Western Australia Awards of Excellence were just as impressed, naming Hidco Landscapes as the joint winner of the hotly contested Designer Residential up to 250m2 category. ■

