

# Backyard

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 ISSUE 15.4  
 AUS \$8.95\*  
 NZ \$9.99  
 (INCL. GST)

Universal Magazines

80

ISSN 1448-5001

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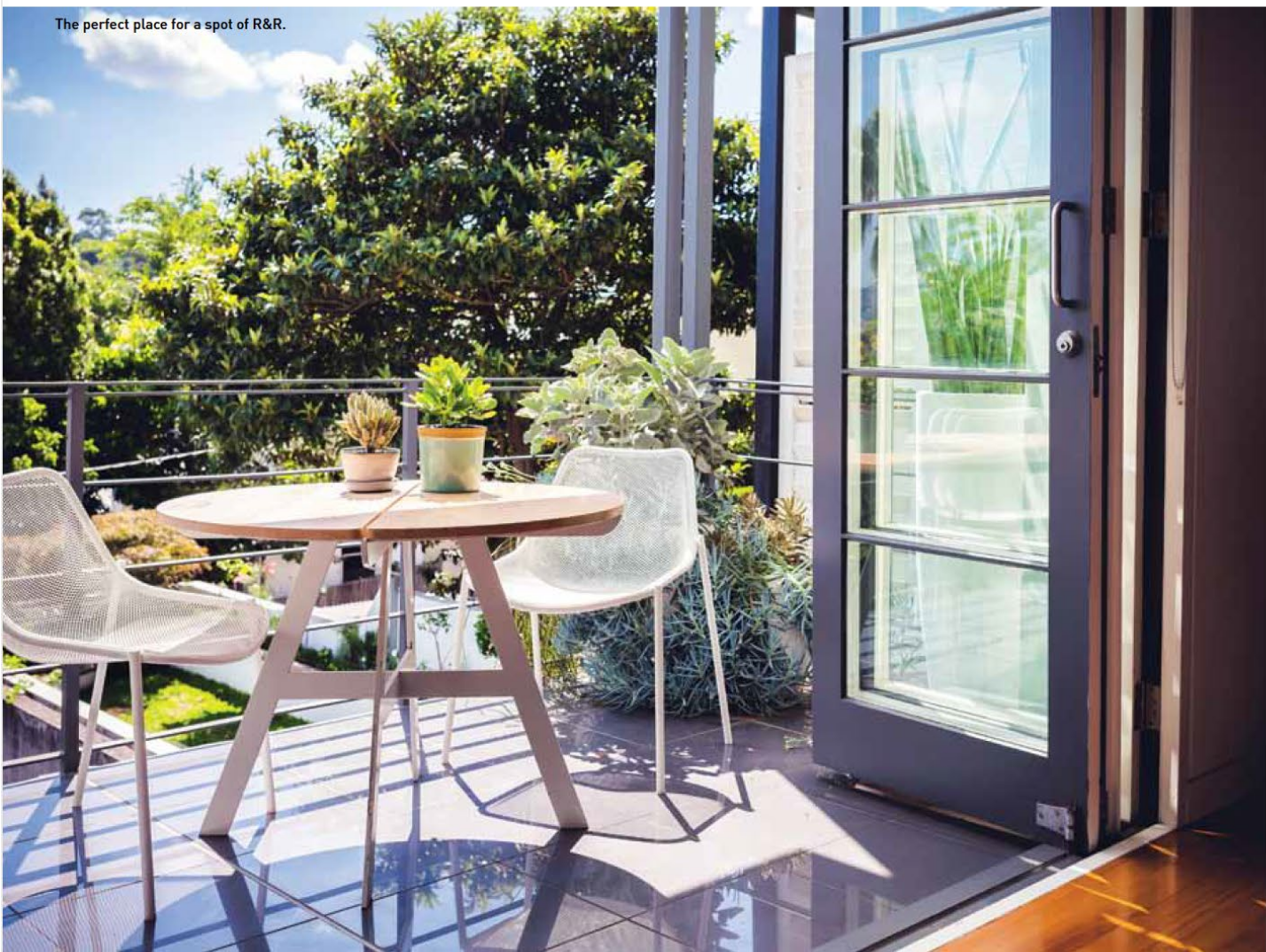
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This renovated garden is light and bright, and quickly becoming the envy of neighbours.

# *Inner-city chic*

*An edgy outdoor space in Sydney's coveted Paddington*

The perfect place for a spot of R&R.



**WORDS:** LOUISE SMITHERS  
**PHOTOS:** ZHI-REN CHOW

**R**enowned for its rows of restored terrace homes, Paddington in Sydney offers many design treats, including this property that sets the benchmark for modern multi-level outdoor living.

Designed by Adam Robinson Design and implemented by The Garden Society, the terrace's north-facing, exposed exterior has been transformed into a modern space where the owners can unwind and relax.

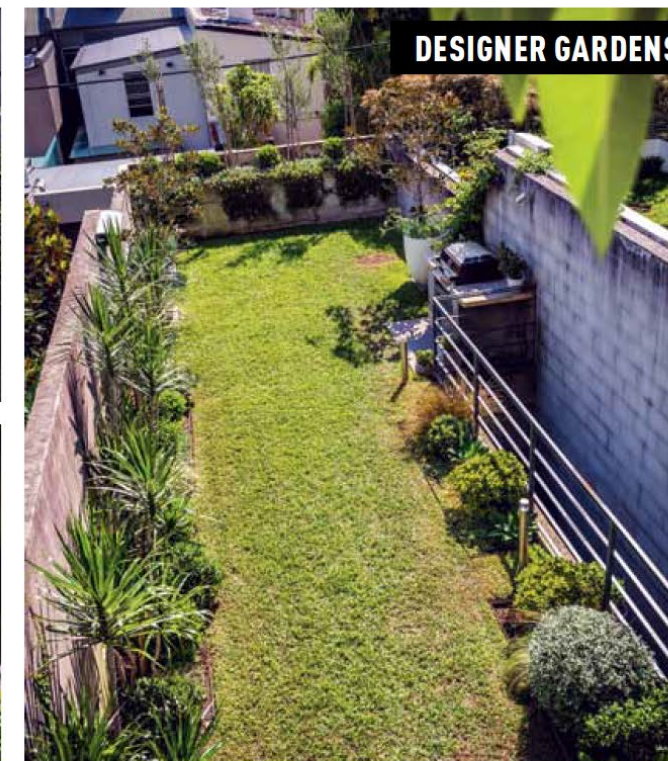
"The stylish clients inspired the overall design of the project," explains Lyndall Keating of The Garden Society. "The outdoor design was created to continue and expand on the contemporary atmosphere of the renovated interior."

The fresh design of the interior, with its emphasis on elegance, helped inspire the creation of a contemporary, low-maintenance outdoor environment using a clean, crisp and structured white and green plant palette.

The Victorian property was in a sad state before renovations reanimated the home. Unfortunately, though, renovation work meant



Naturally weathered decking softens the transition between the internal and external spaces of the home.



DESIGNER GARDENS

LEFT A patch with pretty purple.  
TOP LEFT Fifty shades of green.  
ABOVE This long, narrow space is lush, green and oh-so inviting.

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Modern outdoor furniture adds functionality to the balconies.



A lush urban oasis.



Clustered terrazzo pots create engaging points of interest while allowing the plants to shine.



the outdoor areas suffered and very few plants remained. The first step in cleaning up the area involved the removal of an existing spa bath and deck to make way for the lawn.

New decking was introduced to soften the lines between the internal and external aspects of the property. "Part of the design was to allow the wood to weather naturally," adds Lyndall. "This allows the beautiful natural silvery-grey tones to be exposed."

The multi-level abode has a number of balconies, so it was essential to establish a sense of continuity between the separated verandah areas. A palette of white and green plants, dominated by succulents, successfully achieves this harmony and adds to the modern theme of the home. Plants with varying contrasting textures were layered to great effect and include *Sansevieria stuckyi*, *Cephalotaxus*, fiddle-leaf fig, *Crassula 'Gollum'*, *Crassula 'Blue Bird'* and rubber figs.

"The plant palette is filled with beautiful plants and lush foliage. Watching the outdoor space develop and improve with age is beautiful," says Lyndall.

Strategically clustered white terrazzo pots create intimate points of interest and continue the white theme. Meanwhile, modern outdoor furniture increases the functionality and aesthetic appeal of the balcony areas.

An automated dripline irrigation system adds to the garden's "no fuss" appeal and uses pop-up spray nozzles in the lawn for year-round lushness and precise moisture maintenance.

"To create a space for clients that provides beauty and joy is special," says Lyndall. "The sunny terrace has been transformed into the perfect place to view the rest of the garden."

The seamless cohesion between the indoor and outdoor aspects of this renovated property is inspiring — and makes us want to grab a cuppa and put our feet up in Paddington.

**ABOVE MIDDLE** Random bursts of colour provided by planting breaks up the green and white palette. **ABOVE** Hardy succulents of varying heights feature prominently in this well-designed inner-city garden.



*"The plant palette is filled with beautiful plants and lush foliage. Watching the outdoor space develop and improve with age is beautiful"*