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A Kensington garden inspired by French simplicity



WORDS // ANNABELLE CLOROS
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Spending time in the backyard as a child is a rite of passage that transitions to alfresco dining and backyard barbecues as an adult. With three children and one on the way, a young family called on the expertise of horticulturalist Lyndall Keating from Garden Society to give new life to their Kensington garden.

The brief was simple: to create a “fun, functional and formal garden for four children”, says Lyndall. The inspiration behind the design called on French influences combined with functionality. Work commenced in 2011 and the outdoor project including the pool, garden, lawn and front-garden renovation.

European elegance is immediately apparent with a glance at the front garden, where cone-shaped hedges establish a high-end, luxurious atmosphere. A luscious green lawn is bordered by box hedges, creating a neat, streamlined look that contrasts against the black-and-white tiled mosaic entryway.

A generous-sized pool is located on the side of the home and is surrounded by pleached pears, a highlight of the project for Lyndall.

“Classical plant layers of green and white create a timeless plant palette,” she says. Fantastic for the warmer months, a pool is a necessity for the Sydney summer and perfect for lazy days soaking up some rays.

Creating a family-friendly space was key to the redesign of the area, and there are plenty of inclusions for the kids to enjoy. A timber cubby house boasts a green slide and ladder to the top, with storage for toys underneath. A curved hedge creates a halo above the cubby house, ensuring it fits in with the rest of the backyard’s theme. There’s also a trampoline and basketball hoop, which are clever additions that will continue to entertain as the children grow.

A paved space is a must for alfresco dining, and here it features a long stone table surrounded by steel chairs. Succulent planters decorate the table, adding a rustic element to the formal garden.

The total project was completed in 2013, and stage one was finished in line with the birth of the couple’s fourth child. The family have well and truly settled into their stunning garden, which is a unique example of French style fused with Sydney sophistication. 🏡 gardensociety.com.au



“CLASSICAL PLANT LAYERS
OF GREEN AND WHITE CREATE
A TIMELESS PLANT PALETTE”
- LYNDALL KEATING

