

AUSTRALIAN *TEXTURAL HEALING:* Decorating is the best therapy!

HOUSE & GARDEN

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

This year it's lunch at home

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GARDENING IS STILL ON!

Chic, petite and green - five small gardens to inspire

OUTSIDE *inside*

A lush courtyard filled with emerald-green plants enlivens the living space of this Sydney property.



Photograph by Susan Willsbrock. Plants supplied by Laurie Nozich.

Enhancing the indoor-outdoor connection is a mantra of modern home design. It was certainly a priority for the owners of this Sydney property when they renovated their 1980s home. The whole house, inside and out, was tired, and this courtyard, which extends off a downstairs living area, especially, screamed out for change.

As soon as the internal renovations wrapped up, the owners enlisted horticulturist Lyndall Keating of Garden Society (pictured) to breathe new life into the 4.5x10m space. "It called for a complete change of planting," says Lyndall. "We resisted putting in more climbing plants, which close in the walls. Instead, we opted for fresh white walls with layers of verdant foliage." Rather than hide the existing structural columns, Lyndall incorporated them, softening the rounded forms with the addition of a custom-made arched mirror.

The southerly orientation of the space required careful plant selection. "The plants needed to be able to cope with minimal sunlight, moist conditions and limited soil depth," Lyndall says. Altogether, she used seven different lush-leaved species with contrasting foliage types. A water feature was added for its visual appeal and soothing sounds. Existing sandstone pavers were regreoted and cleaned to restore the natural beauty of the stone, and the walls painted Dulux Half White Exchange.

Lyndall says she designed the garden always mindful of how it would be viewed from inside the home. "There is now a strong connection between indoors and out," she says. "The courtyard is essentially an extension of the living area." www.gardensociety.com.au ▶



Small Gardens FOCUS



ABOVE Upgrading the courtyard has elevated the look and feel of the interiors. **LEFT** Architectural plantings include palms and bearded irises. Hot Mesh Lounger and Footstool, Blue Den. **BELOW** Elephant ears provide a contrast to the scappier plants. **OPPOSITE** The arched mirror reflects the light and visually opens up the space. The water feature fills the space with soothing sounds.



LUSH LAYERS

The key plants used here are:

- ✦ Cordyline allena
- ✦ Kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*)
- ✦ Lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*)
- ✦ Australian fan palm (*Uruba nana*)
- ✦ Elephant ears (*Alseodora macrantha*)
- ✦ Blue den 'Silver Lady'
- ✦ Giant bromeliad (*Alcantarea inopuntia 'Rubra'*)