

AUSTRALIAN

TEXTURAL HEALING: Decorating is the best therapy!

HOUSE & GARDEN

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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 Steven Whittwood. Photo supplied by Ecote Nurseries.

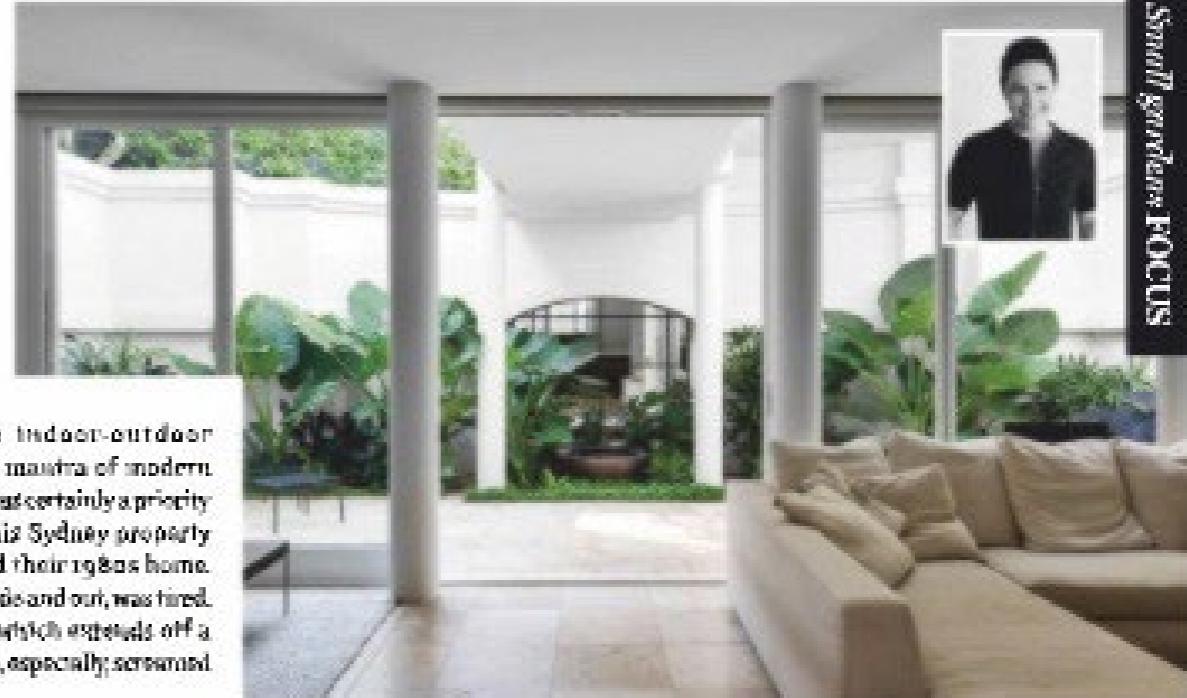
Enhancing the indoor-outdoor connection is a mantra of modern home design. It was certainly a priority for the owners of this Sydney property when they renovated their 1980s home. The whole house, inside and out, was tired, and this courtyard, which extends off a downstairs living area, especially screamed 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 this 4.5-square-metre space. "It called for a complete change of planting," says Lyndall. "We resisted putting in more climbing plants, which clutter 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, adorning the rounded corners 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, root 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 regouted 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



ABOVE Upgrading the courtyard has elevated the look and feel of the interiors. LEFT Architectural plantings include palms and bromeliads. Not Mesh Lounger and footstool, Blu Dot. BELOW Elephant ears provide a contrast to the smoother 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

- ◆ Cordyline australis
- ◆ Kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*)
- ◆ Lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*)
- ◆ Australian fan palm (*Archontophoenix*)
- ◆ Elephant ears (*Alocasia macrorrhizos*)
- ◆ Gladiolus 'Silver Lady'
- ◆ Giant birdwing (*Abutilon megapotamicum 'Rubrum'*)