



WHEN A FAMILY ROOM WAS ADDED TO THIS house in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, the new floor-to-ceiling, stack-sliding doors provided a great opportunity for indoor-outdoor living, but the dated rear garden presented an unappealing picture.

The owners asked Noni Young Garden Design to turn the unappealing courtyard-style space into an inviting, user-friendly garden where they could entertain and relax. Creating a sense of connection between indoor and outdoor spaces was at the top of the agenda but they also wanted Noni to incorporate sustainable materials into the design wherever possible.

"The design is simple yet functional with a somewhat Mediterranean feel highlighted by the choice of plants and materials. The large pot containing an olive tree is a key feature of the design and is lit by spotlights at night, as is the unusually shaped Mahogany Gum," explains designer Noni Young.

Noni's beautiful design incorporates two outdoor living spaces. There is a raised timber deck, constructed of sustainably harvested spotted gum, and a paved area sitting next to the house at floor level. For this space, Noni chose a modular paving



Warm welcome

An inviting courtyard-style space that entices you outside and puts you at ease



pattern for added interest.

Referencing the bamboo screening used to mask the existing fence, a moveable bamboo screen is suspended above the paved area, providing lovely dappled shade in the heat of summer.

Noni opted for low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plants, many native or Mediterranean in origin. There is Lemon Myrtle along the bamboo fence, which will soon grow to form a hedge, *Hardenbergia violacea* (Happy Wanderer) to soften the existing bluestone retaining walls, and a row of *Sedum 'Autumn Joy'* in the garden beds to create a ribbon of crimson in autumn, and for drama.

Yuccas and Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*) are the feature planting against the dark brick wall (painted in Taubmans' Cobler Braun). To contrast the Yuccas and *Strelitzias*, there is the soft, grey-green foliage of *Santolina* sp., *Artemisia* sp. and *Stachys lanata* and for shrub mass there is *Teucrium fruticans* and *Echium candicans*.

The result is a warm and welcoming space that encourages an indoor-outdoor lifestyle and needs scant maintenance to keep it looking its best.



Project details

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