



Urban oasis

This tranquil front garden provides the owners with their own little oasis of calm



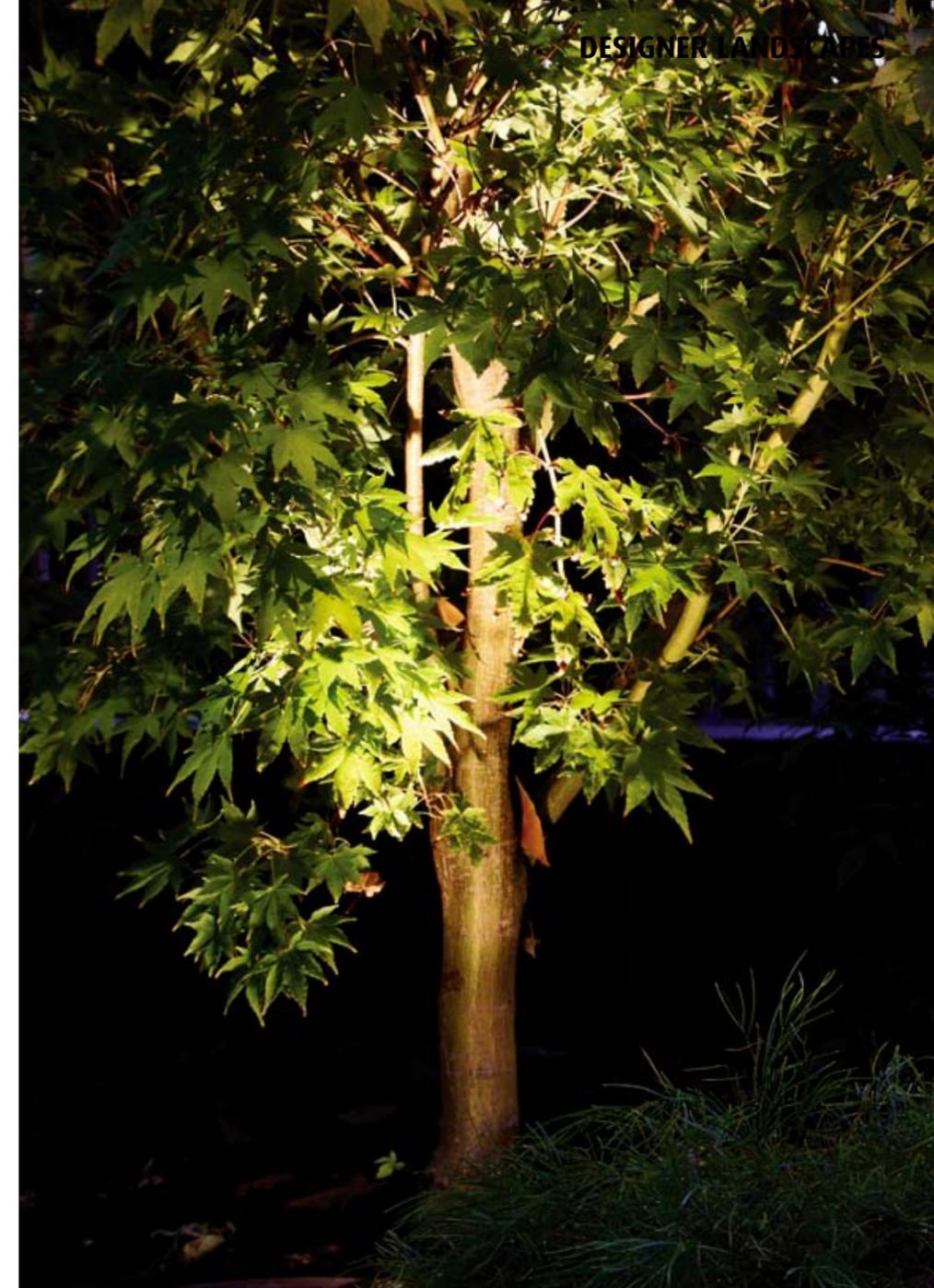
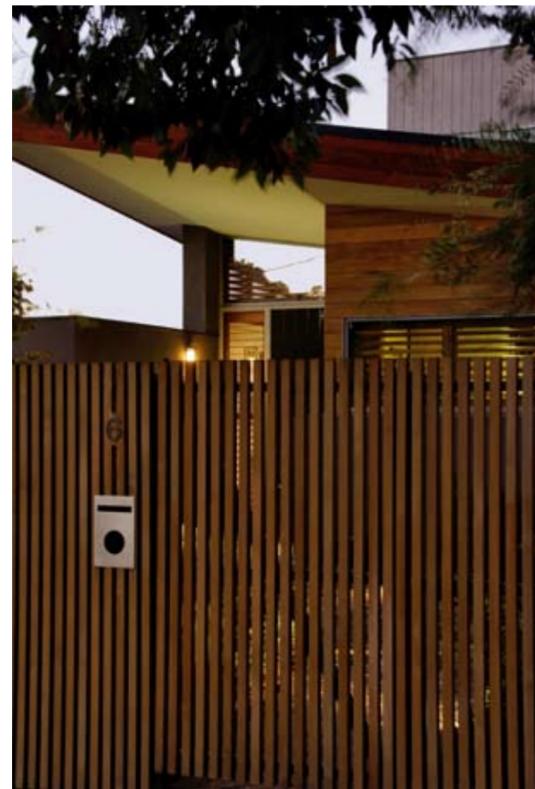
KEEPING IT SIMPLE IS THE MANTRA OF SMALL-SPACE

design. By opting for a modern, pared-back design that complements the clean architectural lines of the house, this front garden is now an oasis of calm.

When the owners of this newly built, contemporary residence engaged the services of Melbourne designer Noni Young from Noni Young Garden Design, their brief was to create a welcoming, low-maintenance garden — one that included a front fence to afford privacy from the relatively busy street, provided a sense of journey from front gate to front door, and incorporated subtle Asian-style design elements.

The front gate is offset from the front door, which allows for a path of random Kanmantoo slate to sweep through the garden, creating the required sense of journey, while the custom-built front fence provides privacy yet doesn't make the garden feel enclosed. Both fence and gate are built of cedar to match the timber cladding on the house.

Despite the relatively small space, the owners were eager to include a number of trees in the design. Upright ornamental pears (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Capital') are planted along the driveway and a Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) is planted in the main garden on the high side of the path. A coral-barked Japanese maple provides colour interest in



winter and contrasts well against the high-gloss, black front door.

Other plants in the design include Sacred Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) planted along the fence lines to soften and enclose the space; small evergreen shrubs including Sweet Box (*Sarcococca ruscifolia*), Mexican Orange Blossom (*Choisya ternata*), *Pieris japonica* to fill out the garden and provide form and texture; *Acacia* 'Limelight' and a low-growing *Westringia* create mounds of green; and *Ajuga reptans* 'Catlin's Giant' as a groundcover. The path

is bordered with white liriop and gardenias and the ornamental pears bordering the driveway are underplanted with mini white agapanthus.

There was a significant fall across the garden from east to west so a small rendered retaining wall was built on the west side and the garden was built up to one level, making it easier to traverse and maintain. The owners now have the inviting, easy-care garden they wanted. A garden that is peaceful, welcoming and provides a tranquil outlook when viewed from inside the home.

Project details

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