

farm MEMORIES

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With a strong use of functionality and sentiment, this month's small garden embraces the qualities of farm living in a modern setting

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CHALLENGE

Childhood memories of care-free times on a family farm can be some of the most precious mementos from the past. This challenge consisted of creating a garden that embodies the welcoming free spirit of farm living and recreating the look right in the city.

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SOLUTION

Typical farmyard elements such as a wide, wrap-around veranda or an antique plough could be directly incorporated. Another way to redo the look would be to present typical farm elements in a contemporary fashion, which still layers the theme faithfully.

THE HEART OF A FARM

The farmhouse and its garden are created for relaxed use and to make all visitors feel heartily welcome.



SETTING THE STAGE

The sidewalk to this month's garden comprises a woodland setting with arum lilies and agapanthus dotted within a luxurious carpet of creeping violas. This freestyle planting sets a naturalistic feel even before visitors enter the property.

Upon entering, the parking bays are lined with fragrant roses and silver birches to provide much needed summer shade. Sight is complemented by sound, as the cooling rush of running water is all-encompassing as visitors arrive. Elegant wrought iron art decorates the two main water features and a large clock face sits across the front door.

A square pond houses a stout pillar with old-fashioned farm spouts to the four sides, reminiscent of an old-style farmyard water pump. A white duck suns itself on the edge of the pond and another bobs restfully in the movement of the water.

SIMPLISTIC SHAPES

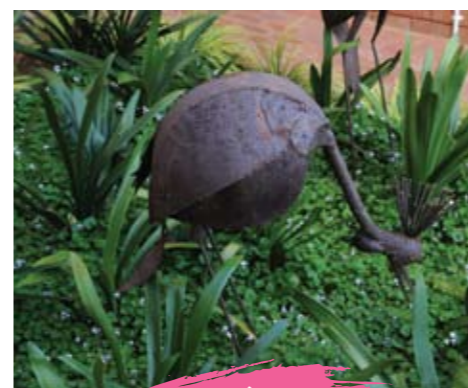
A small gravel circle next to the square water feature forms part of a strong geometric footprint, which is maintained in the rectangular-shaped lawn. The clean, strong lines allow for a free-spirited planting style as well as a large number of different plant types. A simplistic framework is necessary to ensure balance and restfulness.

PLANT PLEASURE

'Bloom and bloom again' plant choices are blended with carefree abundance. Miniature day lilies, gazanias, nemesia, lavender, miniature agapanthus, *Parahebe* and soothing lamb's ears create a tapestry of different leaf shapes and textures. The flowers provide a rainbow of colour, as if the garden is constantly smiling.

COUNTRY COMFORT

The array of comfortable seats on a wide, shady veranda is completely alluring. Even though the day bed is thoughtfully tucked away in a quieter corner, it still casts an irresistible spell. Chairs and small tables are available everywhere – one simply has to choose sun or shade!



In this garden you really do not have to go far to find a peaceful place to sit and enjoy the space



COLOUR CONSIDERATION

Even though a wide variety of colour is used, there needs to be due consideration given to the effect it will create. It is better to limit the use of very bright colours (like orange and red) in smaller spaces. These colours always appear closer than they really are and have a tendency to make the space feel artificially small. They are best used to accent a garden feature.

NECESSARY NEUTRALS

A bright and varied colour selection always has the potential to become a little wild. This potential hazard is easily avoided by the use of white or grey, which 'cools' the colour fever and establishes the backbone of rhythm and repetition in the garden.

FOCAL POINTS

An old plough serves as a sentimental keepsake type focal point. An arbor bench (soon to be enclosed by fragrant jasmine) provides a reverse view of the garden in the shade of a grove of wild plum trees positioned to screen the future neighbour's view. Other focal points include bright geraniums in pots, and grindstones providing cool splashes of water throughout the garden. A corrugated iron chair introduces an element of fun in the driveway area. Two stately magnolias in burnt clay pots provide an elegant frame to the clock face water feature.

food GARDEN

Particularly fitting to the farm aspect of this month's garden is the edible garden. A raised planter box serves as the vegetable garden, which makes for practical and simple maintenance. Crops can be inspected at a comfortable height and tending the garden is not a backbreaking effort.

ENDURING ENJOYMENT

Another small gravel circle features a 'wisteria umbrella' – an umbrella-like structure, which displays the suspended blooms of this striking creeper best when in flower. Another small bench offers a seat in between gardening duties. In this garden you really do not have to go far to find a peaceful place to sit and enjoy the space.

A nearby farm-style table and chairs offer an interesting breakfast nook or even a potting table next to the vegetable garden.

This garden bears testament to a true love of location and speaks with quiet confidence and unshakable affection of its owner's farm life roots. 🌿



TOP TIP OF THE MONTH:
Use colour abundantly, but always think it through so that the effects are not a random accident.



PLANT LIST

1. *Olea europaea* subsp. 'Africana'
2. *Betula pendula*
3. *Syzygium paniculatum*
4. *Populus simonii*
5. *Harphephylum Caffrum*
6. *Robinia pseudoacacia* – hispada
7. *Rosa* – sinensis
8. Cholcester Beauty: Roses
9. *Magnolia grandiflora*
10. Lemon Eureka
11. Bay leaf
12. *Plectranthus* 'Mona Lavender'
13. Mixed perennial planting:
 - *Gaura lindheimerii*
 - *Salvia* 'Blue Spire'
 - *Agapanthus africanus*
 - *Iris* sp
 - *Scabiosa africanus*
 - *Diascia barberae*
 - *Hemerocallis* sp.
 - *Limonium Perezzi*
 - *Erigeron karvinskianus*
 - *Angelonia serena*
14. *Argyranthemum Madeira*
15. *Phormium* 'Rubrum nana'
16. *Carex* 'Frosty Curls'
17. *Lavandula dentata*
18. *Stachys lanata*
19. *Carex* 'Bronzita'
20. *Zantedeschia aethiopica*
21. *Acorus gramineus* 'qurea'
22. *Viola hederaceae*
23. Herb mix
24. *Wisteria umbrella*
25. *Clivia Miniata*
26. *Hemerocallis* sp
27. *Agapanthus praecox*