

Floral PROFUSION

You can have a garden bursting with colour and fun,
without it being busy or disordered

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ardens have as many faces and personalities as the people that inhabit them – from serene

and restrained to exuberant and unruly. This month's garden is an unapologetic explosion of colour, variety and fun, yet it succeeds in not agitating the soul. This can only be achieved with meticulous planning, otherwise it will lead to a space which feels restless, looks smaller than it is and which fails to satisfy on the whole. The secret to spoiling yourself with variety and colour in a small garden space is to give particular attention to the following:

- Neutral hard landscaping materials
- A careful choice of colour
- Rhythm and repetition
- Linkage
- Indoor/outdoor fusion

NEUTRAL HARD LANDSCAPING MATERIALS

Hard landscaping materials need to provide a neutral canvas for the abundance of plant variety and colour. This garden has attractive sandstone riven cladding on the podiums which house elegant mock sandstone half-moon bowls, sandstone gravel, matching cobble edging and sandstone coloured wall tiles. The wooden deck complements these earthy materials and rusted wrought iron ornamentation against the walls and under the pots completes the picture.

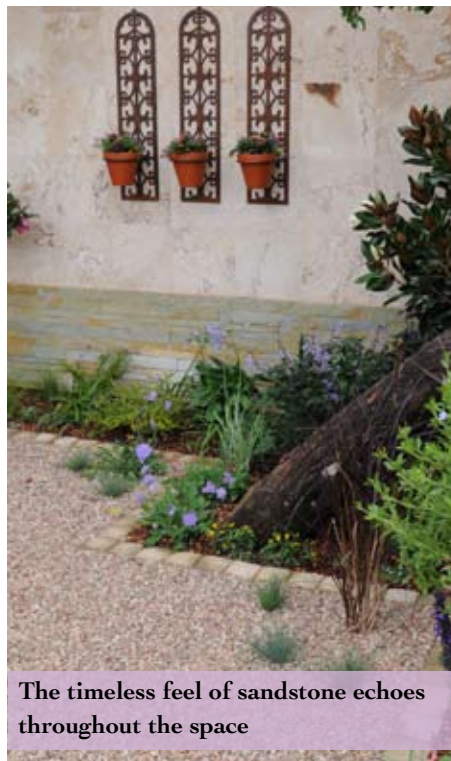
If the hard landscaping materials had been more visually demanding, the final result would be too powerful. It is important to regard every material, plant or piece of ornamentation that is incorporated into the garden as fulfilling a specific role, and to acknowledge that each decision will support or hamper the garden design. The garden may look random, but nothing could be further from the truth!

CHOICE OF COLOUR

When designing to include a variety of flowers, it is wiser to use reds, oranges and even a very bright yellow in moderation or not at all, especially in a small garden space. These colours are visually demanding and appear much closer than they are, effectively shrinking the garden space visually. In this



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PLANT LIST

1. *Freylinia tropica* 'Blue Splash'
2. *Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubra'
3. *Camellia japonica*
4. *Salvia* 'Blue Spire'
5. *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem'
6. *Scabiosa africana*
7. *Verbena* sp.
8. *Hemerocallis* sp.
9. *Scirpus* 'Green Mist'
10. *Agapanthus africanus* 'Baby Blue'
11. *Echeveria* 'Giant Purple'
12. *Sedum rupestre*
13. *Lavandula dentata* 'Royal Crown'
14. *Gaura lindheimerii* 'Burgundy Pink'
15. *Salvia coccinea* (apricot)
16. *Plectranthus mona* 'Lavender'
17. *Zantedeschia aethiopica*
18. *Echinacea* sp.
19. *Diascia* sp.
20. *Angelonia serena* 'Blue'
21. *Tulbaghia violacea* 'Silver Lace'
22. *Lantana* sp.
23. *Felicia amelloides* 'Variegata'
24. *Salvia coccinea* (white)
25. *Pratia pendiculata*
26. *Festuca* 'Glauca'



A hand-beaten copper flower water feature gently spurts water into the air

garden we used pastel colours almost exclusively. Pinks, purples, apricots, greys and greens abound with small splashes of burgundy and a mid yellow dotted around. This retains a tranquil feel while allowing for variety.

RHYTHM AND REPETITION

This is the design principle that will save the extravagant gardener every time! You can repeat a texture, a colour, a certain plant or even a foliage shape or type, as long as repetition is carefully orchestrated around the garden. In the feature garden certain plant choices can be seen throughout the garden. Pinks and purples have been included in many different shades. The timeless feel of sandstone echoes throughout the space, in different

elements such as gravel, edging, bowls, cladding and wall tiles.

LINKAGE

Linkage is the effect achieved by applying the design principle of rhythm and repetition in the garden. It creates a unified whole; a sense that everything belongs. The eye can then feast on smaller details in the context of an overall impression of "This makes sense!"

INDOOR / OUTDOOR FUSION

Even the choice of furniture and accessories has been included into the overall design of what is, after all, one living space. Cream benches with darker, sandstone coloured soft furnishings support the overall restfulness. Even

Elegant wrought iron pot holders with cheerful planting is another focal point



Funky gumboots stand at the ready

*Top tip
It is important to acknowledge that you experience a living space collectively, not as a series of individual parts. The devil is in the detail!*

The weathered stem of an old tree contrasts with the elegant sandstone tiles



Festuca grass in the gravel walkway



Half-moon bowls burst with succulents

the choice of water feature ties into the theme of floral profusion – it is itself a flower nestling among flowers. This forms a perfect complement to the playful feel of the garden. Copper was chosen for the water fountain to link with the other earthy tones: the sandstone, wooden deck and wrought iron decorative items.

The awkward, irregular shape of an old tree was embraced completely and by wrapping the wooden deck around it and providing it with a sleek background, it became a worthy focal point. Elegant sandstone clad podiums house half-moon bowls filled with succulents. These bold

features serve to anchor the garden and temper the informal planting style.

The carefully matched, neutral sandstone hues of the various hard landscaping elements tie the garden together, and provide a counterbalance to the exuberant planting style.

The living space also maintains the lighthearted and somewhat romantic touch. This shady nook offers a cheerful retreat in the late afternoon and is the perfect place to enjoy a morning cuppa in the sun.

This garden wears a perennial smile that is almost impossible to resist! 🌿