

# managing perimeter walls

*The presence of boundaries influences one's experience of a garden very strongly and in most cases it will be enhanced by obscuring them.*

*There are times however when one would deliberately create a focal point against a boundary wall and draw attention to it; for instance in order to provide a focal point across a window or doorway in a narrow space.*

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### A. Hiding the perimeter:

- On the whole, one would much rather feel surrounded by plant material than by solid walls. Allow the garden beds to 'wrap around' your living space. Tiered planting holds the interest and allows walls to become a secondary consideration.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs in a straight line against the wall – it emphasizes one's awareness of where the garden ends. Space them unevenly or group them for a more pleasing effect.
- Do not be afraid to plant trees right up to the front of the bed – one creates depth this way and it makes the garden feel



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- larger.
- Utilize strong focal points in the foreground or even just somewhat away from the wall and surround it with diffuse foliage to blur the awareness of your perimeter.
- Focal points may include a water feature, pots or a topiarized or structural plant such as a cycad.

### B. Highlighting the perimeter:

- When affixing an ornament or a trellis to the wall, do it some distance away from it and not flat against it whenever possible. Once again, depth is created and the space feels larger and it looks a great deal more elegant.
- Fix trellises for creepers away from the wall by hanging it on secure hooks or bolts. In this way it may be lifted gently away from the wall, carefully placed on the ground and replaced again after necessary maintenance such as painting has been done.
- A ticky creeper which does not need training or support to the wall creates a beautiful green surface over time.
- Be aware of the effect on colour – bright colours will appear much closer than lighter shades. Be clear on what you want to achieve in a particular space.
- Perspective paintings are a very clever solution in small confined spaces to achieve the necessary height, provide maximum interest and also to make the area feel a lot more expansive.
- Consider the size of decorative items carefully and rather err on slightly oversized than undersized.
- Remember that most items fixed onto the wall will draw attention to it. If you want to blur the perimeter lines, this may not be your best option.