

Three's A CHARM

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When a garden space is barely 80m² and situated on seemingly impossible slopes, some clever thinking is required for a functional garden. Read on to see how it was perfected



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his month's elegant home nestles right into a beautiful rocky outcrop, but

this enjoyment of nature comes with land which slopes dramatically in two directions. This meant that flat, usable space had to be created deliberately and sensitively. The homeowners are avid gardeners and were a little reticent to compromise too readily on their wish list for their own little piece of paradise

the design SOLUTION

The sympathetic architecture of the house laid the groundwork for three level garden spaces. Retaining walls were constructed and clad in a visually undemanding sandstone colour to keep the structural backbone of the garden largely unseen. This material choice also formed the basis of the design solution in knitting the different areas together in a cohesive, visual whole. Comfortable circulation is possible right around the house through a series of stairs linking the different areas.

entertainment LEVEL

The swimming pool and outdoor dining area is on the same level as the indoor living area, facilitating an easy flow from inside to outside. A water feature was created at the far end of the pool around a classic fountain which gently spills water into a trough and has an overflow into the swimming pool. A charcoal tile provides an attractive contrast with the sandstone-coloured paving, planter box and retaining walls. The charcoal accent is repeated in the pots in this area.

Wanted:

- All areas of the garden should be comfortable to use
- Seating space in at least two of three possible level areas
- A splash pool
- An outdoor entertainment area
- Roses
- A lot of interest in terms of garden ornamentation, colour and foliage variation



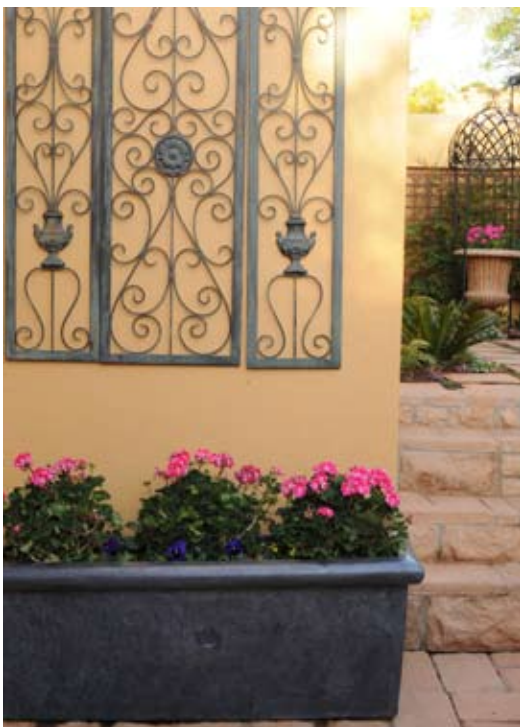
DECORATIVE ELEMENTS

Stately square pots house elegant lollipops with bold seasonal colour planted at their base. The planter box provides a show of green foliage at viewing height right next to the outdoor dining area and can also be enjoyed from the indoor lounge.

A decorative wall trellis with small terracotta pots creates colourful splashes against the wall which is visible from indoors. In another nook a matching charcoal trough provides another burst of energetic colour with a decorative panel above it to complete the composition.

FUNCTION AND COLOUR

Lazy afternoons can be enjoyed on the reading bench. Small terracotta pots within the frame of a second decorative panel introduce colour against this facade of the house. This garden space has truly 'wrap around' colour – something which is very much in keeping with the bubbly nature of the lady of the house.



the rose GARDEN

Also visible from the lounge is the lower level which constitutes the rose garden. There is another bench upon which to relax and a fragrant lavender hedge to enjoy underneath the living room window. Miniature agapanthus, day lilies, *Scabiosa* and *Diascia* provide a no-fuss show of colour. Some family members most enjoy the relative seclusion of this portion of the garden.

the RETREAT

The third level in the garden is what the family affectionately calls the "retreat corner". It is a cool, lush area to wander through, collect one's thoughts and have some quiet time to oneself. A decorative gazebo provides an accent for a classic vase planted with bright geraniums. Cherubs play hide and seek amongst the foliage and are most visible from the study, but only get discovered otherwise as you move through the garden.

petit PARADISE

This small garden has many faces; each space purposefully created for the conscious enjoyment thereof. Since it can be used so easily, its confined perimeters translate into intimacy, not restriction. This garden is comfortable, friendly and full of interest. 🌿

