

first

IMPRESSIONS

An entrance garden sets the tone for the rest of your visitors' experiences at your home. This month's garden shows how to make a bold first impression

the
CHALLENGE

To create a bold entrance garden to offset the uninteresting façade of an older home.

the
SOLUTION

A dominant focal point anchors the attention in the foreground, and defines the space. Bold colour in the garden completes the picture.

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he entrance garden of any home helps to shape the all-important first impression, heralds

a welcome and engages visitors as they arrive.

BACK TO BASICS

In this month's garden, a pleasing geometric space was available in which the owners wanted a striking focal point with an abundance of seasonal colour incorporated into an interesting ground pattern. They also wanted a measure of privacy from the street without cluttering the space or making it unsafe by providing potential hideaways for intruders.

INTENTIONAL DISTRACTION

The ground pattern was created around a small gravel circle, which houses a bold, large urn. Curved pathways of stepping blocks lead into and out of the gravel circle, providing comfortable access from the front gate to the front door. The direct line of sight to the front door is broken and the urn retains the attention in the garden space, diverting the view away from unremarkable clinker brick walls.

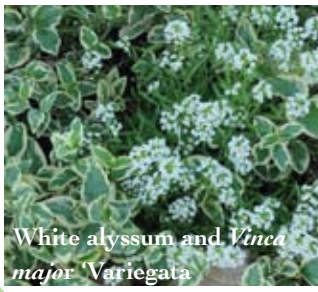
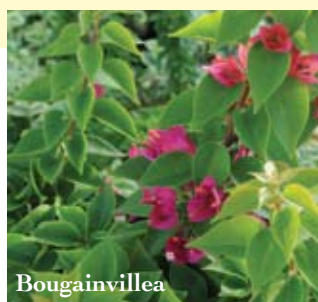
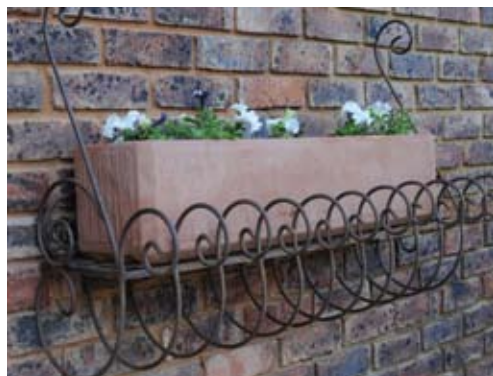


A TOUCH OF DECOR
 Flower troughs, on attractive wrought iron shelves with beautiful scrolls, are planted with petunias to brighten the façade of the house even more. Decorative items in and around the entrance area lead the eye through the garden, inviting the viewer to enjoy its best features.

colour PALETTE

Bold colour wraps around the centrepiece in soothing waves, using the ever-faithfully flowering statice (*Limonium perezii*) and golden-yellow *Acorus* grasses. White agapanthus tucks around the central planting on the outer edges, completing a highly successful colour trio of white, blue and yellow.

Two smaller planting blocks to the side house two pots in a similar style to the central urn, each planted with a *Syzygium* lollipop to create height. The pots nestle in a block of orange day lilies (*Hemerocallis* sp.) to accentuate them and are in turn framed by a row of dwarf mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus* 'Kyoto'). Cheerful violas at the feet of the lollipops have been chosen within the same colour spectrum as the central planting bands.



Plant list

1. *Agapanthus africanus* 'Albus'
2. *Syzygium paniculatum* std. in a square of *Acorus* grass
3. *Syzygium paniculatum* std. with viola seedlings
4. *Hemerocallis* sp.
5. *Ophiopogon japonicus* 'Kyoto'
6. *Limonium perezii*
7. *Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon'
8. *Olea europaea* subsp. *Africana*

TOP TIP OF THE MONTH
 When choosing a focal point, err on the side of too big rather than too small. An undersized focal point loses effect virtually completely.

