VICTORIAN GARDENESQUE

This heritage home in Sydney has a garden that's the envy of the neighbourhood due to its sympathetic, well-considered design

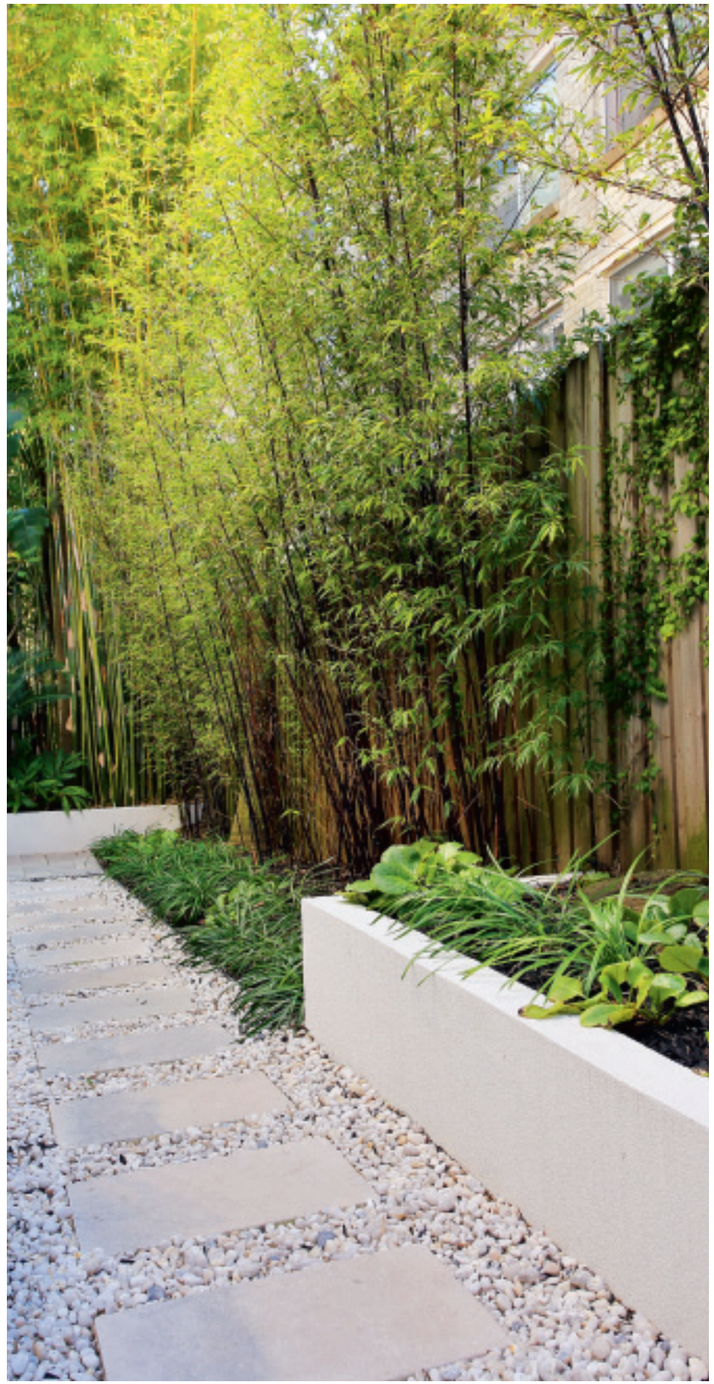
Built in the 1800s, this remarkable Italianate villa-style heritage home stood proudly in the neighbourhood but, sadly, the garden was nowhere near as grand. The owners looked to Myles Baldwin Design to devise a plan that would give them an elegant garden of which they could be proud — one that complemented the striking architectural style of the period residence but catered for the entertaining needs of the modern family.

Ziggy Kabbout and the Eloquent Landscapes team were given the task of implementing this plan, and the end result couldn't be more impressive. "The brief was to simplify the garden which had become over-run with bamboo and ginger," explains Ziggy. "The owners also wanted to introduce spaces for outdoor cooking and dining. They wanted this achieved within a tailored design that respected the heritage home — a style I call Victorian gardenesque."

One of the biggest tasks was creating the alfresco dining and cooking areas, and doing so in a way that would guarantee maximum functionality while maintaining complete harmony with the classic style of the home and Victoriana feel of the overall landscape design. For the paving, Eloquent Landscapes laid travertine. This is a timeless and sophisticated stone that perfectly suits both traditional and modern settings.

In this part of the garden, there is a custom-built concrete barbecue bench and concrete daybed with a teak batten top. These have a contemporary look and cater to how today's family likes to live outdoors, yet they harmonise perfectly with the classic architecture.

Explains Ziggy, "A key design feature was the inclusion of a barbecue and a place to be



able to relax and read a good book. We built a custom insitu concrete barbecue benchtop which included marine ply cupboards that we dressed with Burmese teak battens. The cupboard door handles have a recessed slot routed on an angle which give the impression there aren't any handles. Copper trims were applied between the teak and concrete as a feature. The daybed was also built on-site with a Class 1 finish concrete base and Burmese teak battens to finish as the top deck sitting area."

The new planting palette was critical to the success of the rear and front gardens. In the rear garden, Eloquent Landscapes planted *Crassula ovata* in feature pots as well as *Dichondra* 'Silver Falls and *Rhapis excelsa*. To complement the planting retained from the original garden, they planted *Alpina nutans* and *Cycas revolute*.

In the front garden, the planting is somewhat more formal but also relaxed. For a formal feel, there are *Buxus* balls; for a more laid-back look, *Trachelospermum jasminoides* was used as groundcover to complement an existing cluster and *Soleirolia soleirolia* was used as groundcover around new steppers leading from the driveway to front path.

To ensure the outdoor areas paint a pretty picture at night, the team installed low voltage lighting to all garden beds, feature trees and paths, providing the final flourish. The garden areas are now a joy to behold, day or night.

more info?

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