



For Mick and Janelle Cahill, their garden was not so affectionately known as "The Prison Yard". The space was formerly a double garage nestled between two houses. The roof had been removed, leaving behind a worn concrete and cobble floor, garage doors, and two rusted steel girders crossing the space.



The **GARDEN** Living Room

Making a silk purse from a sow's ear



In creative terms, the brief for Katrina, a garden designer at Earth Designs Ltd, was fairly open: to design a clean and contemporary space, suitable for entertaining yet functional enough to accommodate off-street parking for a family car.

The design was inspired by the strong sense of enclosure to the space, taking elements of a typical lounge to create something that was very much an exterior room. New railway sleepers, chosen for their clean look and contemporary feel, featured heavily as a construction material. These were used to create raised beds around the boundaries, an integrated

'sofa' and coffee table, and a dresser-style shelving unit down one side of the space. Judicious lighting within the beds and shelving units served to create ambient lighting similar to that found in a well-planned drawing room.

The 'living room' theme was further enhanced by the inclusion of a bespoke wrought iron chandelier hanging from the cross-point of the girders. To allow for off-street parking, the existing garage doors were replaced with two large bespoke wooden gates, and pattern-imprinted concrete was laid to provide attractive and durable flooring. Planting was used

to blur the linear appearance of the space, with architectural, spiky evergreens and lush, leafy climbers taking pride of place. A water feature constructed from a Heath Robinson-esque series of copper piping and funnels provided the finishing touch to the garden.

Through wind, rain and the odd thunderstorm, Katrina and her team delivered the perfect garden. Mick and Janelle say that the garden living room is now a tropical oasis which gets more use than any other room in the house. A pretty nifty transformation for a space that was once known as "The Prison Yard!"

Useful Contacts

Earth Designs Ltd.
Website:
www.earthdesigns.co.uk
Tel: 020 8521 9040

Hard landscaping materials including railway sleepers from Travis Perkins Walthamstow. Website:
www.travisperkins.co.uk
Tel: 020 8521 8891

Bespoke Chandelier from Suburban Grilles and Railings.
Tel: 020 8786 8114

Garden Lighting from Electric Shock. Website
www.electrics shock.net
Tel: 01737 764411



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