

REAL HOMES

MAY 2008
£3.00

Real solutions **KITCHENS**

Easy ideas for bright, light-filled spaces

BEDROOMS

How to use cool colours to create calm rooms

BATHROOMS

Simple ways to get spa style on a budget

Real extra! **OUTDOOR LIVING**

GET READY FOR SUMMER WITH
18 PAGES OF
BEST BUYS
& TOP TIPS



BUMPER decorating ISSUE

REVAMP YOUR HALLWAY
GREAT WAYS WITH FLOORING
BRIGHT BEDROOM UPDATES

EXPERT ADVICE: HOW TO SOLVE NEIGHBOUR DISPUTES



BEFORE



AFTER

Transformed!

MODERN GARDEN

Use a simple colour scheme and low-maintenance materials for a streamlined, contemporary look

THE PROBLEM

John Lear and Paul Sullivan's new property had been empty for two years before they bought it and the garden was overgrown. There was a pathway leading to a raised bank with a dilapidated shed.

THE SOLUTION

Level the space and put in crescent-shaped edging around the lawn. Lay decking to create an area for entertaining. Plant with a scheme of white and green, and install a pond with a waterfall.

1. USE THIS... DECKING

The decked area fits with the clean look that John and Paul wanted and creates a laid-back space to enjoy meals and entertain guests.

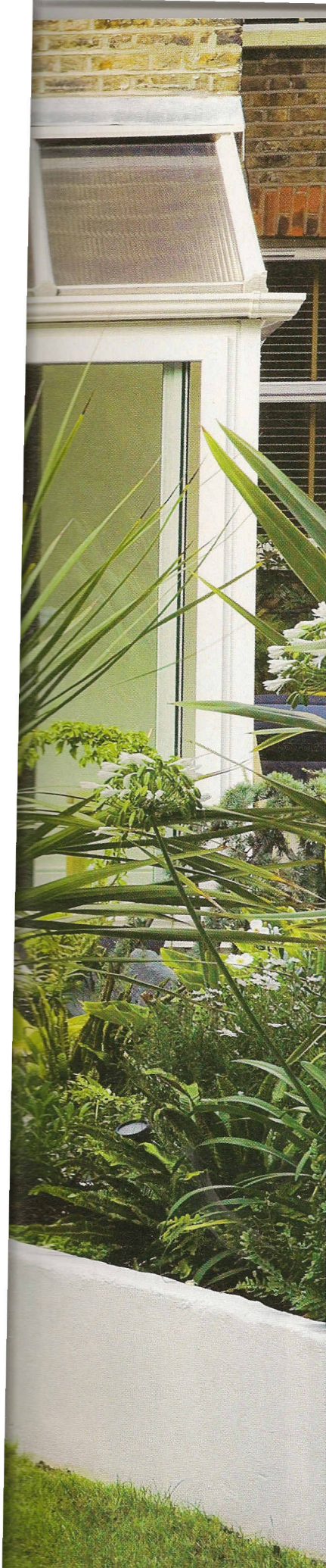
2. CREATE THIS... FISH POND

Around the pond, home to goldfish and golden ochres, are ferns, irises and arum lilies, plus a Nordic pine to offer shade. For a similar selection, try the new Outstanding Plants range at B&Q.

3. BUY THIS... STEEL FURNITURE

The steel frame and white seats of the garden chairs fit with the pared-down style of the garden. Choosing a simple colour scheme for plants and materials is a quick way to give your space a contemporary look.

After a first lot of turf died, John and Paul decided to lay a lawn made of artificial grass. At £3,000, it wasn't cheap, but it's the ultimate in low maintenance – they just have to remember to Hoover it occasionally!



Best buy

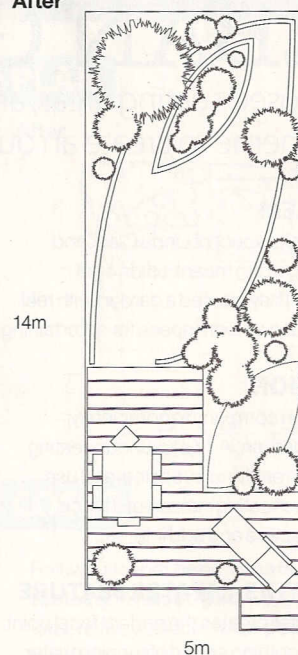
Keep it unfussy with sleek metal furniture



Miami stainless-steel **table** with built-in lights, **£699.98**;
stainless-steel **chair**, **£129.98**, both B&Q

PLAN

After



COSTS

Landscaping, £3,500; **water feature**, £2,400; **decking**, £4,000; **lighting**, £2,000; **plants**, £2,200; **artificial lawn** (including cutting and installation), £3,000, all Earth Designs

TOTAL £17,100



BEFORE



AFTER

Transformed!

URBAN GARDEN

Add enclosed seating areas, architectural features and a bold colour scheme to create an outdoor room with impact

THE PROBLEM

The north-facing aspect of Linda Clark and Liz Bingham's garden meant it didn't get much sunlight. They wanted a garden with real wow-factor to use as extra space for entertaining.

THE SOLUTION

Employ a design company to completely transform the garden. Add a luxurious seating area to create a real living-room feel and use purple opaque sheeting instead of a fence to enclose the space and add interest.

1. INSTALL THIS... WATER FEATURE

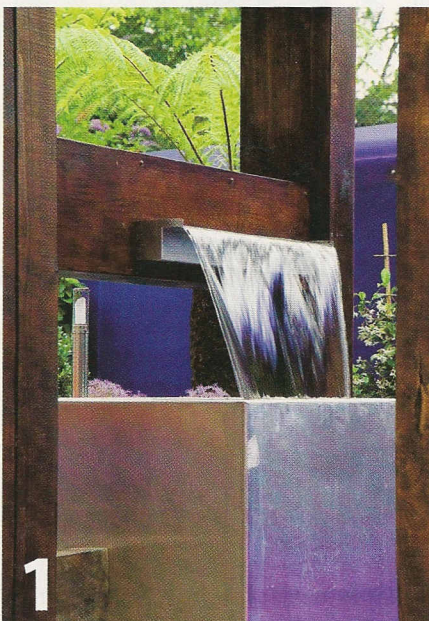
This chic waterfall creates the perfect focal point and adds the soothing sound of running water.

2. ADD THESE... TWIN PLANTERS

Large, stainless-steel planters are perfect for adding impact in a contemporary scheme. The planting has been kept plain to contrast with the bold colour scheme.

3. TRY THIS... CLEVER ZONING

By using open 'shelves' made from railway sleepers, Linda and Liz have zoned areas within their garden, while still letting light flow through.





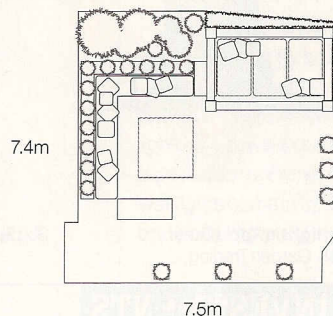
Main The garden includes a dramatic central four-poster bed for lounging under the stars

Below Linda and Liz have stuck to a colour scheme of complementary green, red and purple



PLAN

After



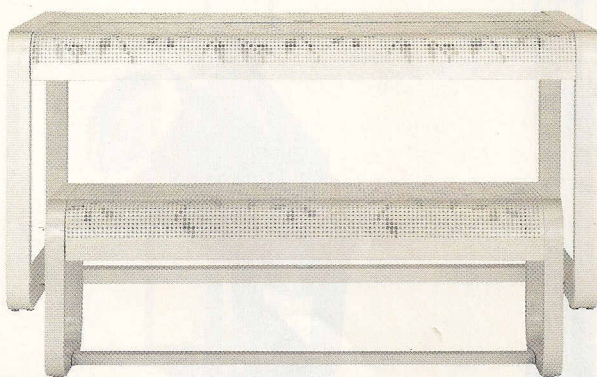
COSTS

Railway sleeper **bench seats, tables and raised bed**, £5,235 total; railway sleeper **four-poster bed** with shelves, £6,400; **Perspex screening**, £3,400; **stainless-steel wall and planters**, £3,400 total; travertine and slate **paving**, £8,200; **lighting and sound systems**, £4,800; **water feature**, £3,600; **planting**, £3,900; **sundries**, £2,000, all Earth Designs

TOTAL £40,935

Best buy

Add an industrial edge with this attractive mesh furniture



Petra **dining set** (table and two benches),
£499.94, B&Q

WORDS: ALEX TOSO, EARTH DESIGNS
PHOTOGRAPHS: MARIO HABIA / GARDEN COLLECTION

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