garden insight

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT STEFANO MARINAZ PLANTS CLEVERLY TO ADD PRIVACY TO AN URBAN SCHEME

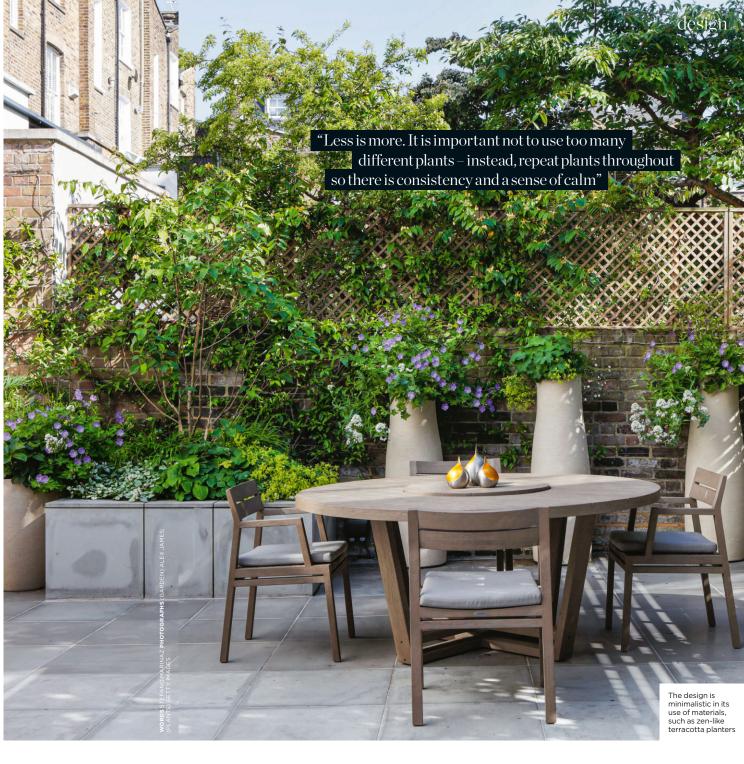
The serene space we have created to the back of this property in London is a natural extension of the house's modern, open-plan interior. Usable space is maximised by having planters, pots and furniture on the perimeter, while the centre is used as a children's play area, Privacy is courtesy of trellis-topped walls, which are ${\it greened\,up\,by\,star\,jasmine}\, {\it Trachelospermum}$ jasminoides; Quercus ilex is used on a raised $planting \, bed \, to \, provide \, a \, further \, sense \, of \,$ lushness and seclusion to the garden. Overall the design is modern and minimalistic in its use of materials but rich in the planting palette. A profusion of white, blue and purple flowers are used in the scheme and the garden is illuminated $at \, night \, with \, spotlights \, under \, each \, tree.$

Having a strong ratio of evergreens to deciduous plants was a deliberate way of ensuring there is low-maintenance interest all year round. The dainty purple flowers are *Geranium* 'Rozanne', a popular choice as they are easy to grow and suitable for almost all growing conditions. Simply plant in a container and water when needed. Late summer sees the lacecaps of climbing *Hydrangea petiolaris* on the trellis, while in autumn the star of the garden is the multi-stemmed *Clerodendrum trichotomum*, with unusual, heavily scented flowers that are followed by blue-black berries.

As well as geraniums, the scheme also features Salvia nemorosa 'Caradonna', Centranthus ruber 'Albus', Mahonia' Soft Caress', Epimedium 'Orangekonigin', Brunnera' Jack Frost', Anemone 'Honorine Jobert', Helleborus niger and Hydrangea' Bobo'. All of these plants are perfect for a dappled shade garden like this one. When it comes to maintenance it couldn't be easier, with the perennials just needing to be cut back in December-January time, ahead of the emergence of spring bulbs.







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