

# 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 greened up by star jasmine *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.



Cut *Geranium* 'Rozanne' back after flowering to get a second flush later on



*Trachelospermum jasminoides* (star jasmine) grows well in containers and has a climbing habit



"Less is more. It is important not to use too many different plants – instead, repeat plants throughout so there is consistency and a sense of calm"

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The design is minimalistic in its use of materials, such as zen-like terracotta planters