



Less is more

From the chaise lounge to the custom-designed metal wall panels, every element serves a purpose



WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Katrine Mardini

Simple and stylish, this exquisite courtyard is the perfect complement to the meticulously renovated terrace house. "The garden design is a great example of less is more," says Steve Warner of OUTHOUSE Design. "Even so, there are several stars of the show: the hand-crafted timber seat, which floats above a sea of mondo grass, the dramatic seasonal change of the *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' feature tree, and the organic wall panels, which add balance to the space."

The chaise lounge is Steve's favourite feature. "On my first meeting with the homeowner, she said she wanted a place to relax and have a glass of wine; somewhere he could take time out, read a book and feel at home. This was my inspiration for the built-in lounge, which was expertly crafted by Philip Goodman of Goodman Building Services," says Steve.

The Corten feature panels (designed by OUTHOUSE Design and made by Roger Apte) are also something special. "It's the subtle connections within the garden that bring it all together — the organic shapes of the panels complement the seating and cast remarkable shadows in the evening," says Steve.

This garden has simple but effective planting in which tree selection was key. "They needed to be bold in shape and colour while still offering year-round interest. The mature size was also a factor as, not being a large

courtyard, we needed to retain a sense of balance and still offer enough shade during summer," says Steve.

Ensuring a seamless connection from indoors to outdoors was high on Steve's agenda. Simply by laying the external porcelain tiles in the same manner and direction as the internal flooring, a strong visual link was created, which draws the eye out towards the feature tree and the seating.

"One of the key requirements was that the garden had space for the owner to wash her cars. This meant we had to ensure that no structure impeded a set area with the garden and the last thing we wanted was additional hard paving. This was solved by installing the Elmhurst TurfPave system. The result is a very happy client, clean cars and a sustainable green lawn," says Steve. ■

OPPOSITE The pale-coloured porcelain tiles add a modern touch and link to the indoors.

ABOVE LEFT This is a simple space in which all details have been meticulously planned.

ABOVE The custom-designed steel wall panels have a lovely rust finish that adds warmth.

