

WHEN LESS IS MORE

This exquisite courtyard, designed by OUTHOUSE Design, is a great example of the "less is more" approach in action. Even so, there are several stars of the show: the handcrafted timber seat that floats above a sea of mondo grass; the dramatic seasonal change of the *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' feature tree; and the decorative laser-cut steel wall panels.

The cantilevered chaise lounge-style seat makes the courtyard feel more spacious as it seems to float; it also provides a place to relax and have a glass of wine or simply read a book. The Corten feature panels, which were also custom designed by OUTHOUSE Design, are just as eye-catching. The wall panels have a lovely rush finish that adds warmth to the space and the organic pattern complements the seating and casts remarkable shadows in the evening.

By laying the external tiles in the same direction as the internal flooring, a strong visual connection was created; one that draws the eye out towards the feature tree and seat. outhousedesign.com.au

COLOUR CUES

Using too many colours can visually clutter a small courtyard. If you do want to use more than one colour and your courtyard is short, use cool hues at the back and warm colours at the front. This will create a false perception that the cooler colour is further away than it actually is. Or you could simply choose one colour for the walls and use a different shade or complementary hue for the paving. And, remember, paler colours make a space feel lighter and more open.