

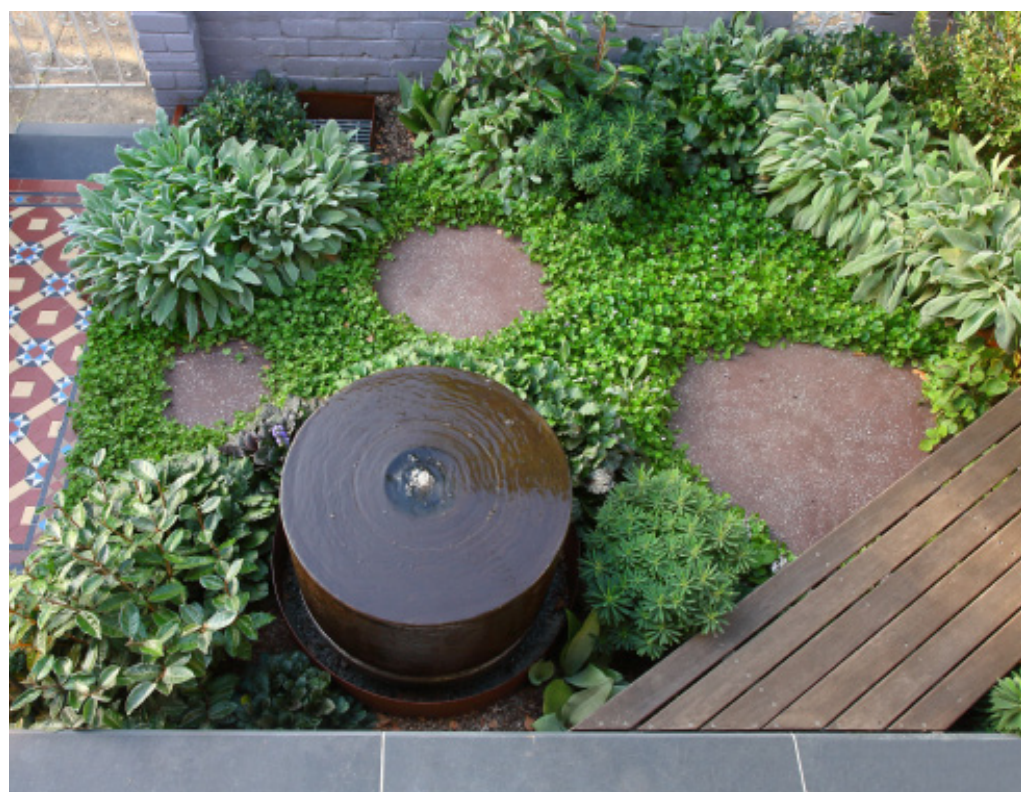


# GARDEN GETAWAY

This effortlessly elegant design balances traditional and modern elements

**H**aving lovingly restored the heritage facade of her inner-Sydney terrace house, the homeowner was ready to turn her attention to the small front garden. While she wanted to reintroduce period elements, it was just as important that the north-facing garden be a getaway space, so she asked OUTHOUSE design's Steve Warner, Director and Principal Designer, and Callum Rhodes, landscape designer, to work their magic.

"During our first meeting, we realised there was a natural place to sit in an informal way on the verandah coping, enjoying the sun and the leafy streetscape. We decided upon a simple bench made of hardwood decking timbers with a dark brown stain. Over time, the colour will soften, developing a patina that blends in with the rawness of the stripped plaster on the house facade. The bench is positioned close to the water feature, around which the whole space is arranged," says Callum.



**STEVE WARNER**  
Director & Principal Designer,  
OUTHOUSE design



**CALLUM RHODES**  
Landscape Designer,  
OUTHOUSE design

Photography by Peter Brennan

"The garden is grounded by heritage materials, in particular, the tessellated tile finish to the verandah, stairs, and pathway. Complemented by bluestone coping, this restores the period feel of the garden and brings structure, rhythm and detail that is then softened with the planting," adds Steve. "To ensure the space wouldn't feel overwhelming, we focused on a limited plant palette with an underlying theme of silver-grey foliage."

*Euphorbia* 'Tiny Tim' (dwarf spurge) provides an architectural arrangement of grey-green foliage for most of the year, while the core of the garden is planted with *Viola hederacea* (native violet), *Stachys byzantina* (lamb's ears), and *Ajuga reptans* (blue bugle). In the shade underneath the seat is *Plectranthus* 'Nico' (Swedish ivy), which brightens the corner in autumn with

its white flowers. *Banksia marginata* (silver banksia) was planted along the boundary with *Elaeagnus macrophylla* (broad-leaf oleaster) the principal structural shrub used throughout the rest of the garden.

Some modern inclusions, such as the water feature, sit happily alongside the more traditional elements. "There is Corten edging, honed coloured-concrete stepping stones, and sleek cylinder pots on the verandah," says Callum. "A red oxide was added to the circular stepping stones to tie in with the warm tones of the rest of the hardscape, while the rusty colouration of the steel edging suits the overall colour scheme. The pots are custom made in aluminium and powdercoated in a colour selected to complement the timeless dark grey bluestone coping."

While designing in a heritage conservation area has its challenges, OUTHOUSE design,



in collaboration with the Urban Garden Enrichment construction team, was able to deliver an effortlessly elegant garden that suits the home's restored facade, provides a discreet place to relax in the sun, and reflects the homeowner's personality.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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