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OUTHOUSE design



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FOLLOW THE CURVE

Open and welcoming, this refreshed front garden is a delight for the senses

Keen to move away from the traditional picket fence approach, the owners wanted to embrace a more organic design that opened their front garden to the streetscape. They envisioned an engaging, plant-filled space that would create a real sense of arrival.

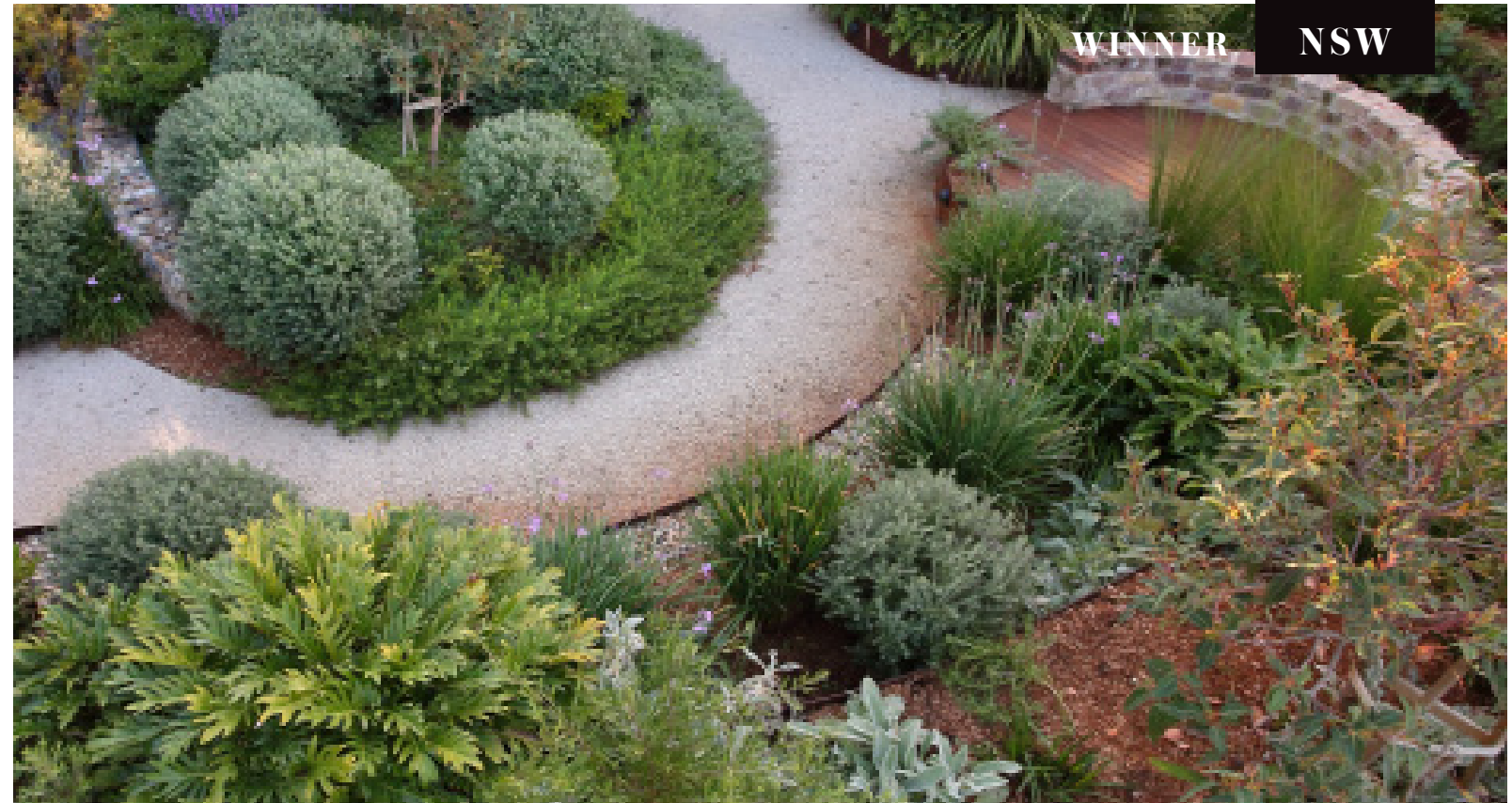
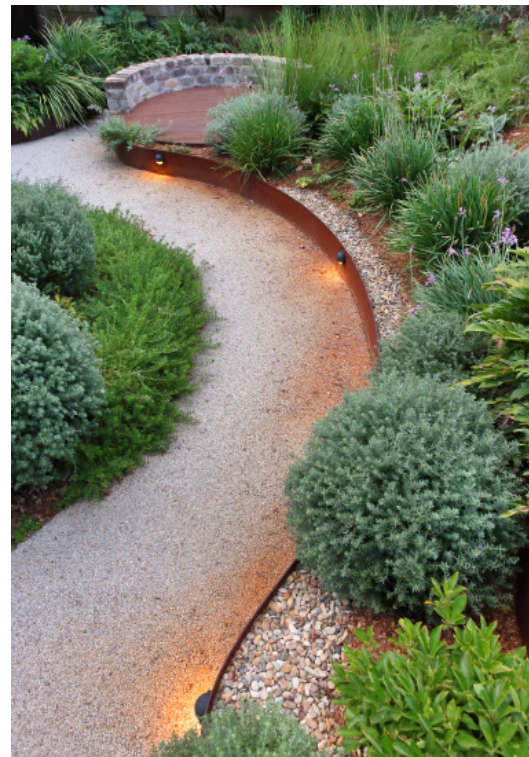
"Home to a young family, the house had been renovated and extended in a relaxed Japanese-inspired style. The owners wanted the garden to have enough character to stand up to the house and make a strong design statement, yet have a laidback attitude," explains Steve Warner, OUTHOUSE design's Director and Principal Designer.

"Our design intent was to create a garden that offers a range of experiences and sensory engagement, and given the backyard was so small, it also needed to provide some of the functions typically associated with a rear garden, such as a cosy space for a small table and chairs or children's play."

"A consistent, simple material palette of rustic and reused components ties in with the home's down-to-earth, pared-back aesthetic and complements the design that features curves and deep garden beds. The overall style is organic and earthy," says landscape designer Callum Rhodes, also from OUTHOUSE design.

"The new curvilinear front path, laid in permeable StoneSet, is the backbone of the garden and was created by moving the pedestrian entrance to the corner of the property. This allowed us to create a curved pathway that sweeps through the garden to the front door. The extra length created by the curve also allowed us to grade the pathway, eliminating the need for any steps between the driveway, street, and door."

The planting is mainly comprised of structured shrubs with seasonal flowers and foliage filling in the gaps. A key challenge in choosing the plants was the high water



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table, which meant in some parts of the garden they had to use plants that can cope with inundation and dryness, such as *Ficinia nodosa* (knobby club-rush). Other parts of the garden are relatively dry. In these spots, a mix of natives and exotics was used, with *Westringia fruticosa* (coastal rosemary) providing structural, rounded forms that support a mix of soft perennials and shrubs. These include *Tulbaghia violacea* (society garlic), *Stachys byzantina* (lamb's ears), and *Myoporum parvifolium* (creeping boobilla).

Although they did away with the front fence, gabion walling was used to define the boundary without creating harsh edges. This works in harmony with the curved, Corten steel-embraced raised garden beds.

Thanks to the construction expertise of Unique Outdoors and the design savvy of OUTHOUSE design, the family now has a front garden that brings as much joy to passers-by as it does to them.

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