

INSPIRING SPACES

Our choice of *irresistible homes and beautiful gardens*



THIS MONTH, respect for its heritage was key to the successful renovation of this **Scottish villa** (*page 102*), a classically decorated **Victorian house** has been given the personal touch (*page 111*), while a 1940s kit house gets a new lease of life (*page 119*) and a reworked **terraced house** in London is filled with distinctive art and accessories (*page 128*). Outside, a neglected plot is transformed into a haven for **al fresco living** (*page 144*) and David Austin takes us through his romantic private **rose garden** (*page 151*).

The entertaining deck outside the kitchen, with an AK47 Zero fire pit, from Encompass Furniture, encompassco.com, has proved to be a huge hit with the Cresswell family, and their sociable sons in particular.



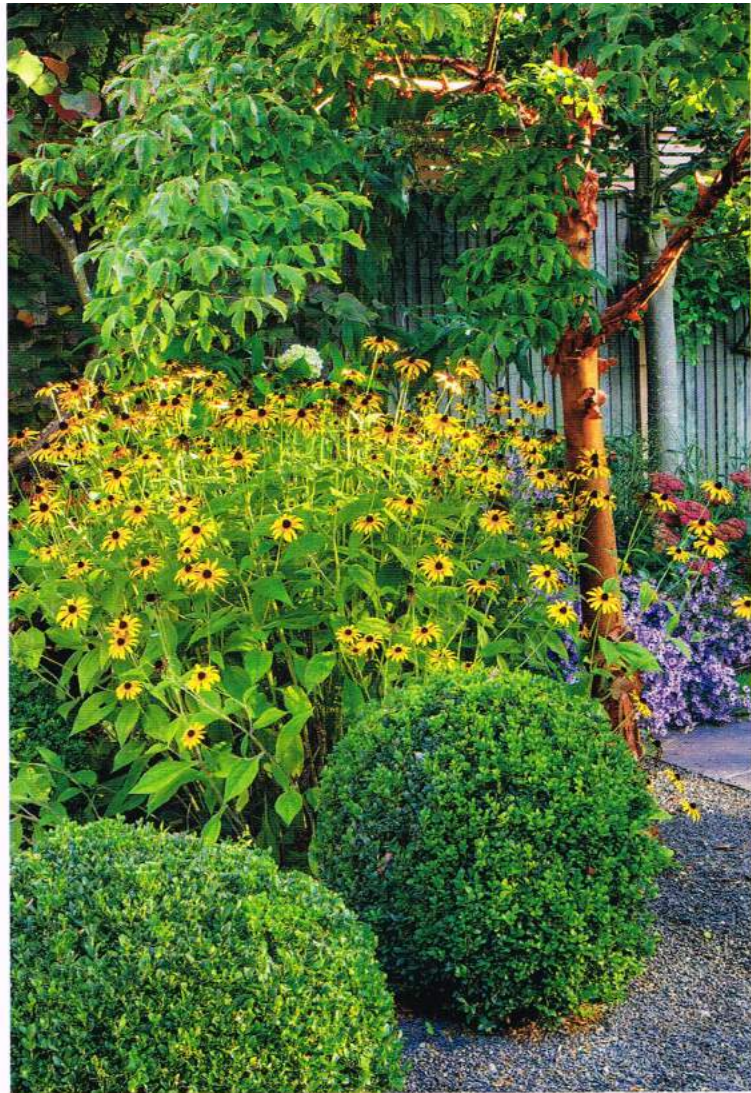


URBAN DESIGN

A new leaf

The transformation of an unloved town plot into a deceptively low-maintenance, verdant idyll has inspired its owners to enjoy it as an entertaining space that links inside and out

WORDS STEPHANIE MAHON PHOTOGRAPHS MARIANNE MAJERUS





willow, acer, holly and oaks offer a backdrop to dahlias, hydrangeas, persicaria and geraniums.

New top soil had to be brought in but, aside from this, the work was straightforward and took about two months. "The process was really enjoyable," Steve says. The garden has now grown in and is a versatile space where the family can relax and entertain.

"We wouldn't change a thing," says Steve. "It turned out to be exactly what we expected – if not more." In fact, they liked it so much that they asked Fiona to redesign the front garden, too. Formerly an unhappy patch of lawn with a parking space, it is now a chequerboard of yew cubes and box-headed hornbeams, which looks smart and contemporary all year and needs little maintenance. Not that this is such a trial for Steve who, as designated gardener, likes to potter. "My wife and children think I spend too much time out here now, but I love it."

GARDEN GUIDE

Garden orientation South facing.

Soil type Clay with shingle/gravel.

Special features Sculptural elements, water feature and planting for year-round interest.

Garden design Fiona Harrison, fionaharrisonsdesign.com.

ABOVE Having completed the main design, Fiona set to work on the front garden, again using slate and gravel in a geometric layout. Hornbeams with box-shaped heads and topiary yew cubes provide a leafy presence without compromising the space needed for the Cresswells' cars.

LEFT The sculpture was commissioned from the artist Gary Scott, garyscottsculpture.com. It originally stood at the bottom of the garden but the couple has since moved nearer the house, where they can see it clearly.