

A 50/50 collaboration comes up trumps

By Stephen Read

The design brief for this modest garden in Malvern, Victoria was simple. The client had a desire to work closely with a designer to create a garden she felt at home in, felt a deep connection with and loved. A garden that would change with each season and which had a strong enough sense of structure and would be able to incorporate any additions she made within her wide and whimsical taste.

Firstly anything 'clichéd' was to be removed, so the 'Iceberg' roses and camellia had to go. Features were then made of the plants that worked well such as the climbing rose which was trained along the wall and, inspired by the bright scarlet bracts of the existing bougainvillea.

The garden was then divided into three courtyards. The first was an open space

with a northerly aspect, which was perfect for planting herbs, perennials, olive and citrus trees.

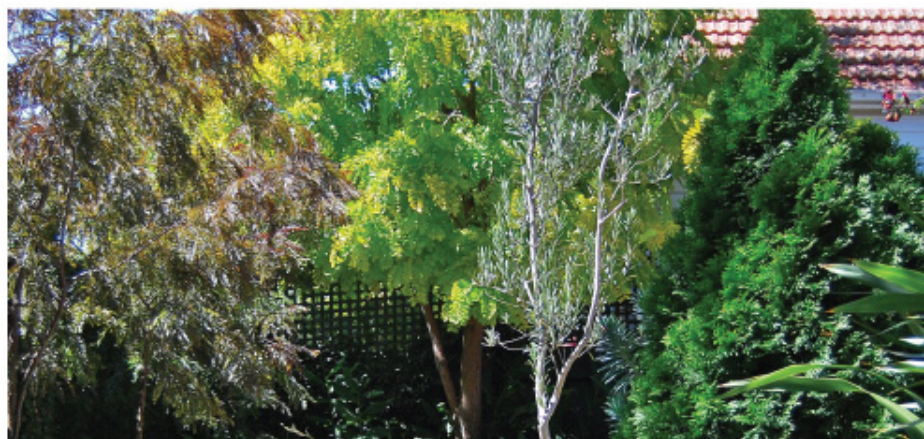
The second courtyard is accessed after passing by a set of quirky, jade coloured urns. This area was quite a contrast to the sun-soaked heat of the first courtyard. Golden Robinia and Ruby Lace Gleditsia, provided cool, dappled shade, which was perfect for

a massed planting arthropodium and Winter Iris. Moving on to the third shady courtyard, a place was created for all those meaningful plants collected over a lifetime.

The highlights of this garden are without doubt the bold colours of the climbing rose and the bougainvillea. The textures of the miscanthus and euphorbia are also showstoppers. With a northerly aspect and free draining soil, the challenges of this site were minimal. Although working so closely with a client could be seen as a challenge, in this case the rewards were worth it.

this particular garden is going to be open as part of the Victorian garden DesignFest 12th -13th November www.designfest.com.au

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Dappled shade of the Gleditsia



A shady place for all the favourite plants



The climbing rose trained against the wall