

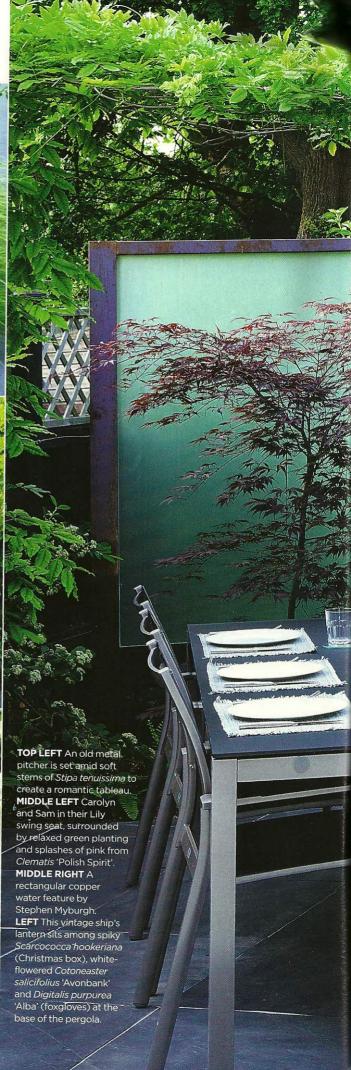
H&G LONDON GARDEN















been cleverly arranged so that all four are never visible simultaneously, wherever you stand, creating an air of mystery and helping to divide the space, which makes it feel larger. There are effectively three sections: a dining area with a pergola near the house; a central space with a shed, barbecue and spot for Sam to practise martial arts; and a suntrap, dominated by a romantic swing chair.

The garden now feels like the extra "room" that Sam and Carolyn had been trying to create since they moved in. Attention has been paid to carrying the interior details

outside: the white grout lines of the kitchen floor, for instance, extend out and along the riven black slate.

The overall effect is continuity, enhanced by the repetition of the acers and screens, each underplanted with ferns. Other planting themes have been reproduced, too: evergreen Sarcococca hookeriana, for example, appears in each section, as do purple foxgloves.

The contrast of the white and black paving is echoed in the colour scheme of the planting. White and purple wisterias scramble up copper supports at each side of the pergola;

white Trachelospermum jasminoides is trained up the purple shed, and white osmanthus is contrasted with purple-stemmed angelica. The planting becomes looser towards the end, softening from containers of clipped box on the terrace to drifts of grasses, foxgloves and ragged astrantias by the swing chair.

As striking at night, when the screens are lit from below, as it is by day, this stunning garden was, not surprisingly, a finalist in the BALI National Landscape awards in 2010. It may have been a ten-year wait, but Sam and Carolyn's dream is now a reality.

Garden guide

ORIENTATION North-east.
SOIL TYPE London clay.
SPECIAL FEATURES Four
screens, each set behind an
Acer palmatum 'Burgundy
Lace'; pergola; water feature.
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