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A HIGH-MODERN JOBURG

FAMILY ABODE

5 FRESH ROOM
REINVENTIONS
FOR A BRAND
NEW YEAR

THE INDIVIDUALISTS
SA homes that shout
original style, from Pretoria
and Paarl to Durbs

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61 TRENDS
TO ROCK 2013





THE OUTDOOR OFFICE

With an unprecedented mix of connectivity and calm, it's not surprising that the Rooftop Workplace of Tomorrow in the UK won a Silver Flora Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2012. Designed by Patricia Fox of Aralia Garden Design, it's cool on a number of levels – not least of which is the concept of giving stressed-out corporates a breath of fresh air. 'We decided to take it to the rooftop for several reasons, one of which is the abundance of wasted space in city centres,' explains Patricia. 'Rooftops allow you to expand the existing office space while majorly contributing to urban greening.'

Keeping the concept 'relevant to now', a tablet or iPad shape inspired many of the design elements. 'The rounded square became an icon that we used throughout the garden, from the furniture through to the pruned shape of the *Buxus*. We wanted to maintain a simplicity of form and space that would allude to the future but would not be too hard and edgy. By block planting in a colour palette of green, silver blue and white, we infused a feeling of calm and tranquillity,' says Patricia.

Technology wise the garden offers Wi-Fi connectivity throughout, as well as concealed weatherproof sockets and plugs. The cube building sports a huge LED TV, which was used to display stunning botanical close-ups during the show. 'We envisage that it would be used for *PowerPoint* presentations, films or music videos. We also played recorded birdsong throughout the garden, and you suddenly felt that you were miles from a city. Garden spaces feel completely different to a normal office – they're uplifting and rejuvenating, and we believe they can really encourage and support creative and lateral thought.' aralia.org.uk



Patricia Fox's garden included eco-wise elements such as bamboo decking and table tops made from a compressed recycled-paper composite. The C-Swing chairs are by Thomas Bramwell. **RIGHT** On Stephen Lamb's rooftop garden in the city bowl, veggies such as spring onions are grown in moveable recycled crates. The hanging ceramic planters assist with natural cooling.

