



ROOF GARDEN

BY ARALIA

Size of project 100m²
Build time March to August 2014
Project value £100k

A luxury international property developer selected this late 19th century property in Knightsbridge to renovate into premium apartments, with an adjoining roof terrace to the rear. In the short term, the roof terrace served to attract buyers by reflecting the high level of quality associated with this particular developer, as well as innovative design solutions to combat a very difficult small site, whilst having to provide a series of elegant and contemporary garden spaces.

The brief

In response to the client brief, Aralia's design divided the space into three key areas which helped reduce the existing 'corridor' effect. These areas consisted of a dining area which linked with the kitchen, a lounge area with fire pit to provide a luxurious seating and entertaining space, and a small intimate snug area which linked to the master bedroom. Elements including outdoor dining and luxury lounge area, extravagant fire pit, cascading water feature, structural archways and raised planters were designed to not obstruct views or light going into the building, whilst creating the required level of privacy. Planting was designed to contrast with more contemporary and clean geometries used in the hard features, taking a more traditional form which reflected the classical feel of the interior.

Development

Aralia was also commissioned to design a full range of landscape plans, including the garden lighting and garden irrigation plans. The garden design company worked as landscape architects in a multi-disciplinary consultancy team which included a range of subcontractors. Aralia also provided a soft landscaping supply and install service. Liaising with suppliers and conducting in-depth research into products enabled Aralia to select the correct materials that worked together in the best way for the purpose intended. A variety of trusted suppliers for both hard and soft landscape elements were used.

Challenges

Like many small London terrace gardens, this garden came with many constraints, particularly relating to privacy. The terrace was sandwiched between two terrace rows and

- 1 (Previous page) Bespoke walk-over water feature
- 2 Limestone paving with pebble mat edging; framed by a curved metal bespoke archway
- 3 Polished granite outdoor fire table

therefore was significantly overlooked by the adjacent neighbouring property, together with apartments on upper floors. The design of this space had to carefully consider how privacy could be achieved without limiting the existing light levels which, due to its aspect, were far from ideal. Another constraint was the fact that the terrace was on a podium above the basement level and therefore weight limitations and build-up requirements were very restricted, and had to be carefully coordinated with the project engineer.

Unique features

Water feature

The water feature was a huge challenge as the client wanted a 'wow' feature in a tiny space. Aralia created a walk-over design that allowed the feature to be of a significant size without interrupting the flow of the space.

Metal arches

The roof terrace was dominated by five storey buildings on both sides. Aralia incorporated metal arches to provide a ceiling that made it feel more private and less overlooked than it actually was.

Cantilever oak bench

In the tiny area, space is of a premium and this is why Aralia chose to design a bespoke L-shaped oak bench to provide maximum seating.



- 4 Contemporary oak seating with lush evergreen planting
- 5 Before photographs; the site was heavily overlooked by the adjacent property

SUPPLIERS

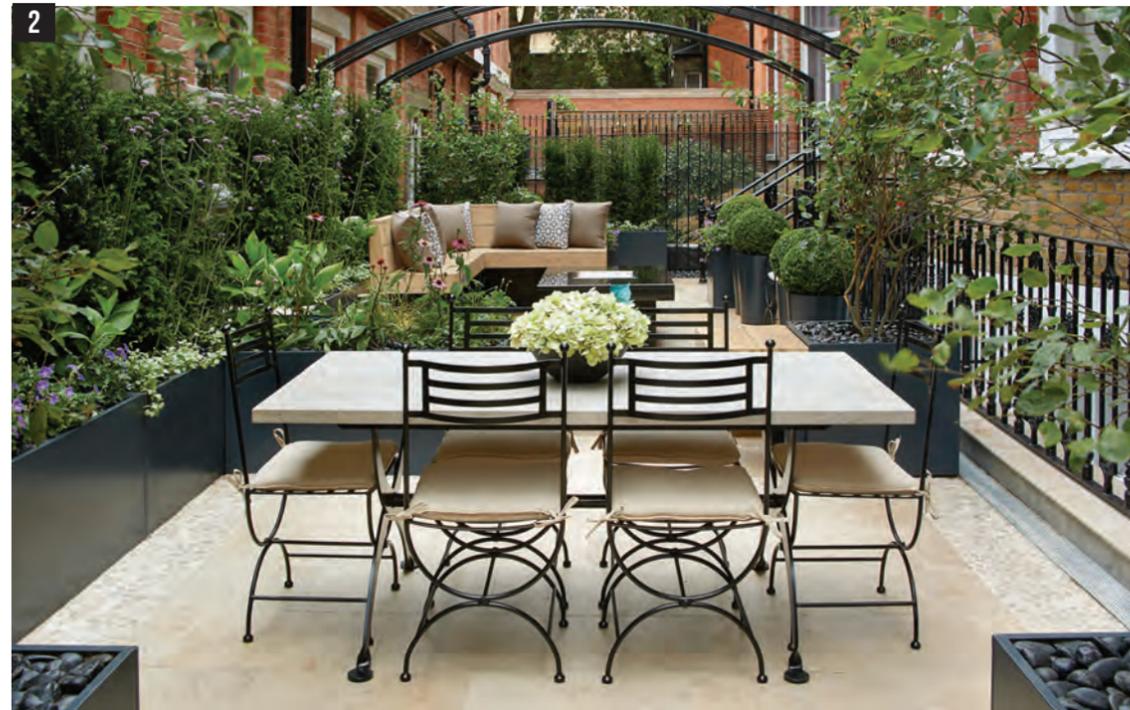
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ABOUT ARALIA

Aralia is an award-winning, innovative landscape design practice which works to the very highest professional standards, continually pushing the boundaries and exploring new concepts for landscape architecture and design. Aralia has a strong track record in delivering residential and commercial gardens which are unique to each of our clients and have a distinct character that relates to both the architecture of the house and the surrounding landscape.
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