



SMALL WONDER

ARALIA

A petite courtyard garden near Manchester is given a chic transformation with sharp lines and an eye-catching planting scheme

PROJECT DETAILS

Project value
Circa £30k

Build time
May 2013-April 2014

Size of project
75m²

The client approached Aralia to design their small courtyard garden, having seen their show gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and RHS

Tatton Park in 2012. The space was tiny, approaching 80m² including the front garden, and felt very much like a corridor due to a new L-shaped kitchen extension that protruded significantly into the garden.

The brief was to maximise the functionality of the space, while also ensuring a beautiful view when seen from within. To achieve this effect, Aralia focused on creating a mix of levels to capitalise on the existing space, as well as

adding a terrace that served as an ambient seating area and could be easily accessed from the kitchen.

Materials

After discussing the brief with the client, Aralia researched ideas for a material palette, created a mood board and liaised closely with the customer, gaining a good understanding of the material aesthetic and clinical level of detail required in the finish. Aralia then contacted a number of their trusted suppliers and consultant contractors to discuss which materials would suit these requirements most appropriately. Once final →

selections had been made, samples of all materials were collated and sent to the client for approval.

Design and build

In this small courtyard garden, spatial planning and simplicity was paramount, in order to maximise usability and make the space feel larger than it actually was. A high level of attention to detail and material quality were imperative to reflect the exceptional standard of the interior, and to successfully juxtapose contemporary materials with the Victorian terraced house. Soft landscaping pockets were used to break up the corridor-like side space, creating two separate, comfortably proportioned areas and providing seasonal interest.

A beautiful Ipe hardwood deck was designed and installed to provide a seating area that can

be accessed immediately from the kitchen. The existing brick wall was rendered and painted an off-white colour to create a feeling of lightness and airiness, and was complemented with pale grey sandstone paving, trimmed with grey sandstone sett detail. Slate grey planters were introduced to provide raised planting, creating a mix of levels to offer interest as well as an aesthetic transition from the lower level sandstone paving to the upper deck. Due to budget restraints, only a very low-key lighting scheme was introduced.

Aralia designed a mix of evergreen and herbaceous planting so that the garden had structure throughout the year, while also having colour and seasonality. As the garden is very compact, the plants were chosen specially for their size and impact, given the constraints of the site.

Challenges

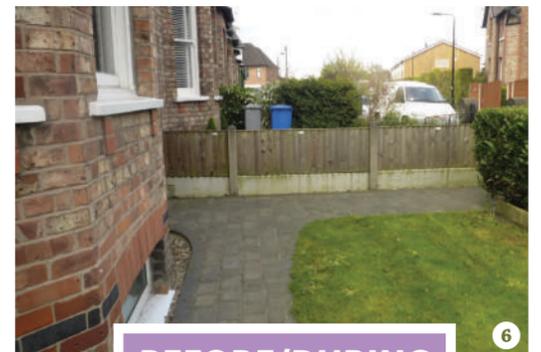
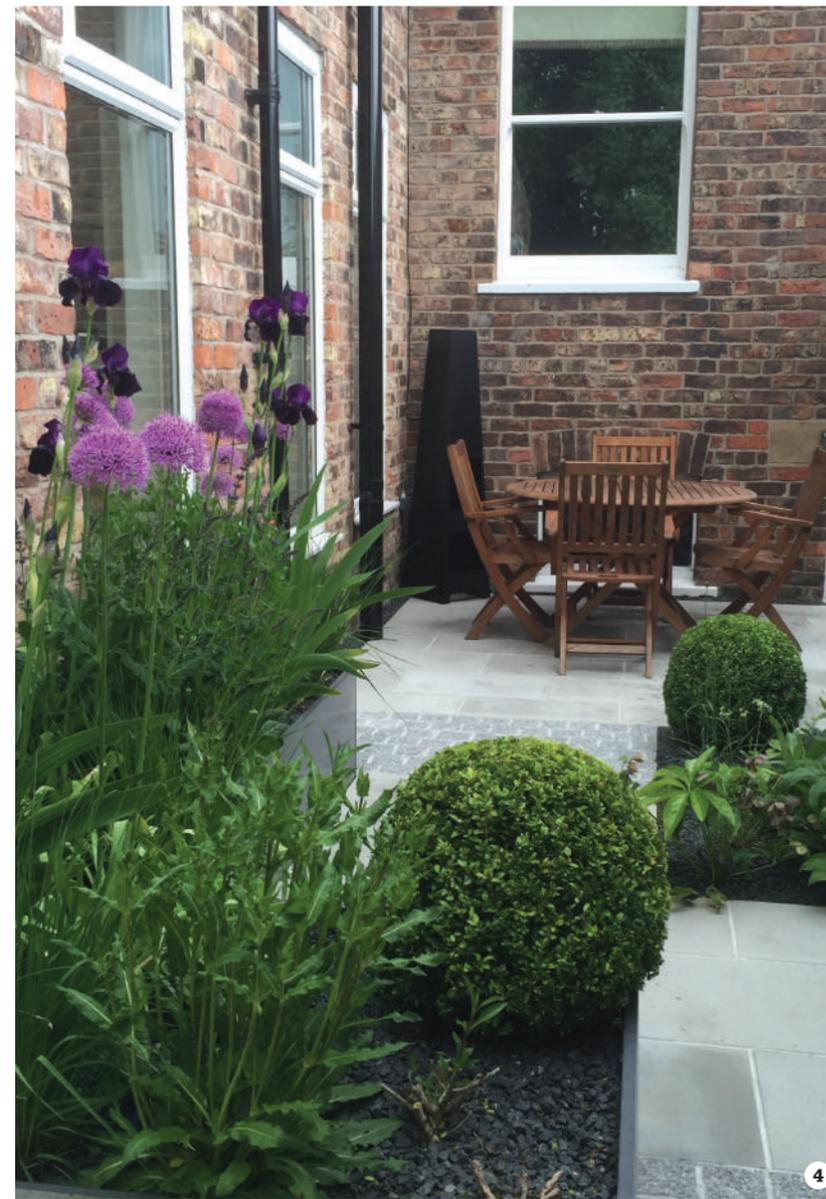
Initial proposals had to be adapted to suit a reduced client budget while maintaining a strong design. An existing brick wall had significant issues, being aesthetically unattractive and in poor repair; to overcome this, Aralia introduced steel posts and a hard wood slatted trellis, strengthening the wall and providing privacy.

ABOUT ARALIA



Aralia is an award-winning practice that works to the highest standards, pushing boundaries and exploring new concepts in landscape design. Aralia has a strong record in delivering residential gardens that are unique to each client and have a distinct character that relates to the architecture of the house and surrounding landscape.

www.aralia.org.uk



REFERENCES

Design Aralia www.aralia.org.uk	Stone setts CED www.ced.ltd.uk	Decking Exterior Decking www.exteriordecking.co.uk
Build/Contractor Jacques Landscapes www.jacqueslandscapes.co.uk	Decorative aggregates, fencing, hard wood slatted trellis, plants and rattan garden furniture All sourced by Jacques Landscapes www.jacqueslandscapes.co.uk	Planters Europlanters www.europlanters.com
Stone paving London Stone www.londonstone.co.uk		

- 1 Front driveway, Buxus cubes and hydrangea hedging
- 2 Contemporary planter formed with a block work rendered wall and natural stone coping
- 3 Alliums and lillies providing colour and impact
- 4 Side courtyard – horizontal paving details break up the space and stop it looking like a corridor
- 5 View of paving detail during the build
- 6 Front driveway as was
- 7 Side courtyard as was