

SUBURBAN OASIS

Calm and tranquil yet full of life, this garden in Melbourne's suburbs is a haven to retreat to and enjoy.

Story by Sunny de Bruyn

Even in winter it would be hard to resist spending time in this well-planned backyard. The layout gives it a fabulous sense of space and the plants chosen create a soothing atmosphere. It really is a garden for all seasons – blossoms by the pool in spring and fruit on the lemon and orange trees in summer. Partly Asian and partly cottage, it is simply a pleasure to be in.

This garden pretty much has it all – wisteria, conifers, gardenias, camellias, lemon trees and native grasses. At first glance there doesn't seem to be much of a theme, but in fact there are distinct sections, creating a feeling of different areas. And all the diverse plants are a refreshing change to conventional landscaping trends – the blossoms near the pool contrast nicely with the orange trees by the cubbyhouse.

The plants chosen all have a specific purpose. The wisteria on the rear fence and pergola softens the brick wall nearby, the ornamental

pear trees are for screening purposes, the weeping maple is a feature and the citrus trees give fruit. Kiama Landscaping was called in to create this beautiful garden.

The owners wanted a traditional-style garden – simple and fairly minimalist. They also required hedging around the boundaries to block out the neighbouring development. With pets, kids and a love of entertaining outside, they needed the area to be open with plenty of space for recreation and socialising. They also wanted an unimpeded view from the house to the pool so that it became a focal point. The back of the house is glass so the view out to the pool also extends the living area into the garden.

They specifically wanted a natural look so Kiama Landscaping used a natural stone for the paving – random Castlemaine slate with a grey paver border. The timber deck around one section of the lap pool softens the look of the landscape and adds an additional feature. ■

For beautiful blossoms try these fruit trees:

- Pears
- Almonds
- Nectarines
- Peaches
- Apples

From this viewpoint, it's hard to believe you are in the suburbs and not a country garden.



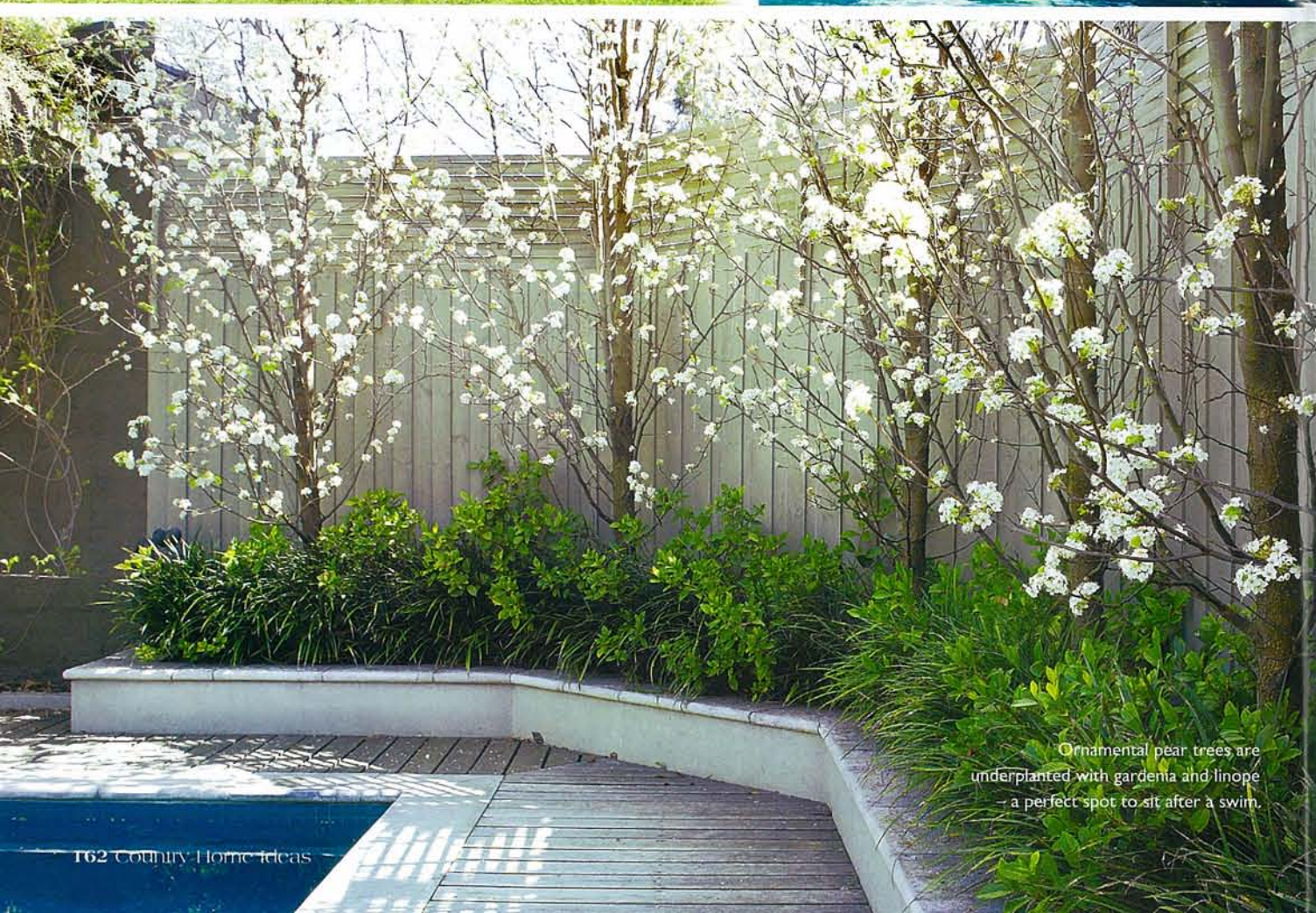
Red flowering Camellia Japonica planted against hydrangeas provide a colourful burst of blooms in spring.



The cubbyhouse is a real treat for the kids – a private little hideaway! The Elm tree that supports it is cleverly built into the wall.



Weeping maple, hellebores and wisteria – this part of the garden is lush with abundant growth.



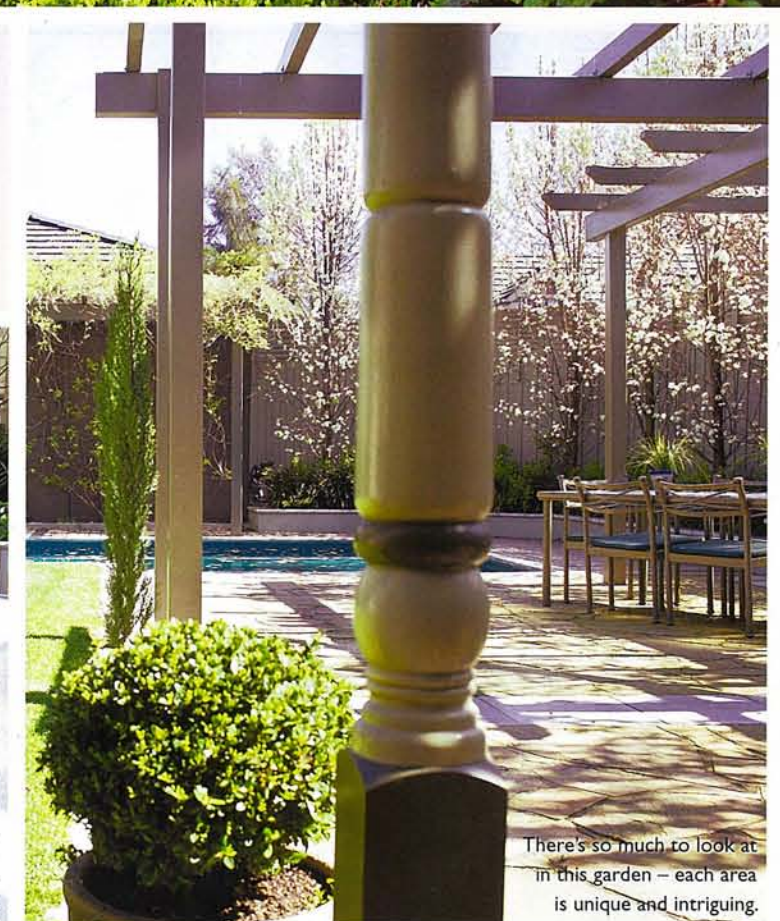
Ornamental pear trees are underplanted with gardenia and linoleum – a perfect spot to sit after a swim.

For a similar look in your own garden, try these plants in varying combinations:

- wisteria
- cherry blossoms
- lemon trees
- citrus trees
- conifers
- camellias
- native grasses



The grasses and blossoms give the poolside a distinctly Asian feel.



There's so much to look at in this garden – each area is unique and intriguing.