

LIGHT AND SHADE

My garden is twelve years old.

The existing ficus covered bluestone wall provided an opportunity to create a private shady garden that would establish a sense of calm upon entering the front gate. I retained a few shrubs and was keen to add much more planting with an emphasis on foliage.

I took cues from the white Edwardian house when selecting the additional plants, contributing to a restrained monochromatic colour palette. White Crepe Myrtles were added as anchor plants. The cinnamon bark of their sculptural trunks, their new spring growth tinged with bronze and fiery autumn tones all reference the home's terracotta roof tiles.

Slate crazy paving provides pattern and softness. Velvet silver-leaved Plectranthus, easily grown from cuttings, weaves amongst the small shrubs. 'Wild Swan' Anemones, (Chelsea '2011 Plant of the Year') were sourced from Lambley Nursery in Ascot and add to the woodland garden feel. Lilliums provide verticals long after their flowers are finished, with their sculptural brown seed pods. White Iceberg Roses were here when I arrived. Each year I vow to replace them as the shade increases. They remain for another year, but not forever.

Winter pruning fully reveals a rusty sculpture by Neil Tait from Tait Decorative Iron in Castlemaine, moved from a previous garden.

Walk through the garage to the small north facing garden where a shed was removed, allowing for a curved garden bed and further crazy paving repeating the design language of the front garden's hard landscaping. I added a third white Crepe Myrtle to break up visually (rather than block out) the sight line of the neighbouring house; seen from the street, this tree provides a third form, especially when in its full autumn glory. The more shade-tolerant and less virulent form of the Virginia Creeper family, *Parthenocissus henryana* with its purple-backed leaves and beautiful deep venation (more prevalent in shade) provides contrast to the cinnamon bark and increases the perception of depth in this small space.

The main eastern back garden is unrecognisable from twelve years ago. A large c.1970's swimming pool dominated the entire garden with a little perimeter planting. Its bottom was smashed, a large concrete water tank was craned in, followed by a heavily engineered black steel pond dividing the garden from the decking. Positioned to be viewed from the front door, it extends the "spine" of the house with its central hallway. A stacked slate water wall was installed at the pond's end for better Feng Shui – allegedly bringing good luck and money back into the house! It has taken some years to get the planting right and at the time of writing this, three generations of fish are thriving.

As the back living area faced east, I was keen to have vivid chartreuse green viewed from within. Gleditsia trees were planted with one emerging from the top deck. An analogous colour scheme is used here for the planting choice, with the wedge of yellow, yellow-green and lime green from the colour wheel. No grass, rather a mass of textural evergreen underplanting akin to an embroidery and forgiving of the stray weed thrives here.

GARDEN NOTES

Korean Box, clipped into domes, were placed to look as though casually ‘thrown’ throughout the garden, becoming vital anchor plants during winter. Emergent Freesia bulbs bloom in spring, tropical lush Lilliums in early summer, the Gleditsias’ vibrant golden Autumn tones and abundant winter flowering yellow Picotee Hellebores provide the yellow component of the scheme.

Being familiar with his sculptures at ‘Cloudehill’ in Olinda, I commissioned the artist, Ian Marr, from Orange in NSW to engrave four stones which are placed around the garden. His work is influenced by the Arcadian wonder of ‘Little Sparta,’ the late Ian Hamilton Finlay’s garden in Dunsyre, Scotland; a fascinating garden with an abundance of stone pieces with exquisitely chiseled Roman type.

My raised vegetable garden bed was abandoned after some years through lack of care and time. Last summer a ‘Golden Spirit’ Cotinus was planted as a ‘bridesmaid’ anchor plant to support the main hero trees. Underplanting of sun and semi-shade tolerant Aeonium with their lime-green cabbage rosettes add another texture to the planting.

A few key plants used extensively in Japan are used throughout my garden: clipped Box, Nandina domestica, Mondo Grass, Camellia sp. and Japanese Anemones, all adding to the feeling of serenity.

The owner Catherine Condell studied Garden Design at Burnley, graduating in 2015. Previously trained in Graphic Design, she lectured in Colour Theory at various universities and has a background in design, illustration, painting, photography and embroidery. She can be contacted by email at ccondellgardens@gmail.com

Meredith Stone is a Mornington Peninsula based artist who has been exhibiting for the past 20 years. She also maintains a slow fashion label and eco dyeing practice, Cornucopia & Co.

Examples of her work will be shown and will be for sale this weekend.

<http://meredithstone.net/>

Light and Shade is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri people. Open Gardens Victoria wishes to acknowledge the Traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website:
www.opengardensvictoria.org.au



Plant List

Front West Garden

<i>Anemone 'Wild Swan'</i>	Ruffled Swan Windflower
<i>Azalea alba magnifica</i>	
<i>Bergenia x stracheyi 'Bressingham White'</i>	Pigsqueak, Elephant Ears
<i>Camellia sasanqua sp.</i>	
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Seaside Daisy
<i>Ficus pumila</i>	Creeping Fig, Climbing Fig
<i>Gardenia augusta 'Florida'</i>	Florida Gardenia
<i>Hellebores sp.</i>	Lenten Rose
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia sp.</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea
<i>Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei 'Natchez'</i>	White Crepe Myrtle
<i>Libertia formosa</i>	New Zealand Satin Flower
<i>Lilium longiflorum</i>	Easter Lily
<i>Michelia yunnanensis</i>	Scented Pearl Magnolia
<i>Plectranthus argentatus</i>	Silver Spur
<i>Plectranthus ecklonii</i>	Tall Spur Flower
<i>Rosa 'Iceberg'</i>	Iceberg Rose
<i>Stachys lanata</i>	Lamb's Ears
<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	Star Jasmine

Side North Garden

<i>Agave attenuata sp.</i>	Century Plant, Lion's Tail
<i>Camellia sasanqua 'Setsugekka'</i>	
<i>Hellebores sp.</i>	Lenten Rose
<i>Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei 'Natchez'</i>	White Crepe Myrtle
<i>Liriope 'Monroe's White'</i>	White Lilyturf
<i>Parthenocissus henryana</i>	Silver Vein Creeper

GARDEN NOTES

Back East Garden

<i>Aeonium arboreum</i>	Tree Houseleek
<i>Aeonium arboreum</i> 'Voodoo'	
<i>Arthropodium cirratum</i>	Renga Renga Lily, New Zealand Rock Lily
<i>Asparagus densiflorus meyersii</i>	Foxtail Fern
<i>Beschchorneria septrialis</i>	Mexican Lily
<i>Buxus microphylla</i> var. <i>koreana</i>	Korean Box
<i>Canna americanallis</i> 'Bengal Tiger'	Bengal Tiger Canna Lily
<i>Clivia miniata</i> Cream	Cream Natal Lily
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i> 'Golden Spirit'	Golden Spirit Smokebush
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i> 'Tasred'	Tasman Flax Lily
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	Upright Myrtle Spurge
<i>Gleditsia</i> var. <i>inermis</i> 'Sunburst'	Golden Honey Locust
<i>Hedychium</i> sp.	Ornamental Ginger
<i>Helleborus</i> x <i>hybrid</i> 'Primrose Yellow'	Lenten Rose, Hellebore
<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i> 'Limelight'	Limelight Licorice Plant
<i>Lilium</i> x 'Conca d'Or'	Hybrid Oriental/Trumpet Lily
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Sacred Bamboo
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i> 'Nana'	Mini Mondo Grass
<i>Parthenocissus henryana</i>	Silver Vein Creeper
<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Boston Ivy
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Cleveland Select'	Ornamental Pear

Aquatic Plants

<i>Aponogeton distachyos</i>	Water Hawthorn
<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	Water Hyssop
<i>Hydrocleys nymphoides</i>	Water Poppy
<i>Myriophyllum crispatum</i>	Upright Water-milfoil
<i>Nymphaea</i> Yellow	Hardy Waterlily

Side South Garden

<i>Dianella tasmanica</i> 'Tasred'	Tasman Flax Lily
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> White	White Mop-head Hydrangea
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Sacred Bamboo
<i>Parthenocissus henryana</i>	Silver Vein Creeper, Chinese Virginia Creeper
<i>Philadelphus</i> x 'Virginalis'	Virginalis Mock Orange