

SEASIDE COURTYARD GARDEN

This petite seaside courtyard garden of about 80 square metres is located in immediate proximity to the Hampton Beach foreshore and nestles against the home's commanding modern architecture.

Our brief to landscape designer, Rick Molino was to compliment the contemporary design of the house and new pergola, maximise the sense of space and entertainment capabilities and importantly, create an outdoor sanctuary to admire and potter.

We preferred a Mediterranean style of garden and requested that it not be overly formal. Key requirements were plantings that would survive a coastal climate and look good throughout the year. The garden also needed to be low maintenance.

The planting scheme was to incorporate not only ornamentals but – in true Mediterranean style – also make space for home harvest. The garden has been successful in integrating flowers, textured foliage, form, perfume and edibles in a confined space without feeling cramped or confused. The two *Tristanopsis laurina* (Water Gum) trees have given the garden the structure, shade and protection that it vitally needs. Ornamental plant species include gardenia and Chinese star jasmine for perfume, with oakleaf hydrangea and bearded iris providing interesting flowers and form. Soft plantings include foxtail fern, liriopse, hellebores and creeping *Dichondra* 'Silver Falls'. The edible components include fruit trees with a mandatory lemon and a cluster of columnar apples. The elliptical pruned bay trees organically spread through the space, and a range of herbs are in high demand for the kitchen.

Extra seating has been created in various locations to cater to the different moods, times of day and seasons. All seating areas are made accessible by an informal pathway that runs through the garden and links to the main pergola area.

We have had immense enjoyment watching our garden grow during the past two years. It has exceeded our expectations, and provided us with another beautiful, tranquil area to enjoy.

Mark and Karen – Garden Owners

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