

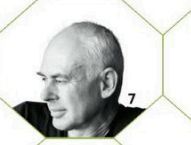


# 60+

## DELIGHTFUL GARDEN IDEAS

Create a little magic in your garden with tips from a coterie of top Australian designers.

- 1 / Ian Barker, Ian Barker Gardens, Victoria. 2 / Paul Stein, Seed Landscape Design, Queensland. 3 / Peter Fudge, Peter Fudge Gardens, NSW. 4 / Janine Mendel, CultivArt Landscape Design, WA. 5 / Peta Donaldson, Natural Design, Victoria. 6 / Phillip Withers, Phillip Withers Landscape Design, Victoria. 7 / James Hayter, Oxigen Landscape Architects+Urban Designers, South Australia. 8 / Brent Reid, Candeo Design, Victoria. 9 / Scott Leung, Eckersley Garden Architecture, Victoria. 10 / Matt Cantwell, Secret Gardens, NSW. FOR CONTACT DETAILS, SEE PAGE 208.



Produced by Elizabeth Wilson. Leaf image from Alamy.



## 2 / Shade solutions

Adelaide summers can be scorching, so planting for shade is all-important. Local landscape architect James Hayter's recommendations for shade-giving trees are:

- ✦ **Crepe myrtles** Perfect for a small garden, given their medium height and prolific flowering. I use both the white-flowering *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Natchez' [pictured above] and pink-flowering 'Sioux'.
- ✦ **Pagoda tree** (*Sophora japonica*) Larger than the crepe myrtle, this tree provides wonderful dappled shade. It's a focal point in our courtyard, we live under it summer and winter.
- ✦ **Turkey oak** (*Quercus cerris*) Too big for many gardens, but great if you have the space. It's utterly beautiful, with particularly spectacular autumn colour.



## 3 / IGNITE THE FLAMES

A flickering fire adds a special sparkle to soirees in the garden. "I absolutely adore fire. It provides warmth and an ambient glow that is so welcoming," says Melbourne garden designer Peta Donaldson. Her garden features a fireplace with traditional wood fire plus a portable fire pit fuelled by ethanol. "I love the romance of a crackling wood fire but the ethanol fire is more instantaneous, perfect for use in the courtyard."



**4** For a sculptural and eye-catching plant, Sydney landscape designer Peter Fudge recommends *Furcraea foetida*, an ornamental succulent with variegated, sword-like leaves that grow to 1.2m in length. "I love it," says Peter. "It grows in sun or shade and is very low-maintenance."

## 5 / SMALL SPACE, BIG IDEAS

The key to making a small space work is to "think big", says landscape designer Peter Fudge. "Your aim is to create the illusion that the garden is larger than it really is. Use large pots, even if that means using fewer pots so the space remains uncluttered." Plant a small tree — perhaps a frangipani or an olive tree — in a large pot, underplant it with succulents and grow a creeper like *Dichondra* 'Silver Falls' (left) to spill over the edges.

## 6 / Make a splash

Water is a magical element in any garden design and can take many forms. "Even a simple, elliptical water bowl will bring reflections and movement to a corner of the garden. It also provides a water source for birdlife," says Peta Donaldson. ▶

