



COURTYARD CITY GARDEN, EDINBURGH

Tracy McQue | McQue Gardens | www.mcquegardens.com

Garden details

Size	9.5m x 7m
Aspect	North-west facing garden
Soil	Loam, plus new soil & compost in raised beds
Started	November 2008
Completed	May 2009
Cost	£18,000
Design fee	10 per cent
Contractors	Gilmour Gardens, Edinburgh

Brief

The clients are a professional couple living in Edinburgh city centre. Their courtyard garden was overlooked and unused, containing an old deck and lots of gravel. The house had just been renovated and the clients wanted the garden to complement the new contemporary interior.

They wanted a place to dine and entertain in, as well as having somewhere to relax as well, and they asked for no lawn and to include water. Lastly, they were keen to garden and wanted to include a good amount of strong-coloured planting which would provide year-round interest.

Design

The final design incorporates several areas. French doors open out onto a small polished sandstone patio which offers an informal place to enjoy the late evening sun.

A small step leads up to a larger dining terrace, which provides a sociable space at the centre of the garden. To increase the feeling of privacy and enclosure, *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' and *Amelanchier lamarckii* are planted here. As well as the acer and amelanchier, structure is provided

with a trachycarpus, phormium and *Dicksonia Antarctica*.

The other side contains a rendered seat, which is topped with hardwood and wide enough to act as a day bed. Behind this seat a deep red feature wall feeds a raised water rill, which in turn spills into a shallow pool at the other end.

The planting is a mixture of grasses, shrubs and perennials contained in both the ground and planters of various heights. In the shadier areas, hosta, dicentra and ferns are used. *Iris chrysographes* 'Black Form', *Salvia nemorosa* 'Ostfriesland', *Astrantia major* 'Ruby Wedding', *Agapanthus* 'Black Panther', *Aquilegia vulgaris* var. *stellata* 'Blue Barlow' and *Lobelia cardinalis* 'Queen Victoria' create the rich palette of colour that was asked for.

Lastly, white rectangular LEDs were inlaid into the seat and planters, uplighters were used to highlight the structural planting and the shallow water pool was also illuminated.

