




the big small garden

did you know...

that you can use Resene Concrete Stain to recolour concrete or pavers? See the Resene Decks, Paths, Driveways and Recreational Areas colour chart for colour options.

Above Marion's small but perfectly formed garden with the russet leaves of the magnolia *Nyssa sylvatica* in the foreground.

Resene
Koru 

Resene
Sea Fog 

Simple yet stylish was the approach taken by this seasoned gardener to her small site.

Discipline and restraint are concepts often applied to the design of small gardens. Marion Morris of Merivale, Christchurch, possesses both of these in spades (no pun intended).

She's an inveterate gardener, turning her hand to planning and planting many gardens during her life. After living in Auckland for 30 years, Marion returned to her home-town of Christchurch where she eventually settled at the end of a quiet central cul-de-sac. The house, designed by architect David Sheppard has an exterior painted in Resene Sea Fog with Resene Arrowtown detailing. Its north face opens to the outdoor paved dining area and main garden, where



top tips for small gardens

Be disciplined - you can't have too many different plants or materials.

Use standardised plants to visually open up the garden.

Espaliered plants, trained along a fence, need less room to grow.

Large pavers are less visually busy than smaller formats.

Below A quiet corner with a welcoming seat and potted plants. The walls behind are Resene Arrowtown and Resene Sea Fog.

Resene Jalapeno 

Resene Morepork 

Marion has used scale and repeating pattern to trick the eye into believing the space to be larger than it is.

While Marion sometimes sighs in regret at the limitations of her 389sq m land size, she has enjoyed designing the hard landscaping and planting to maximise what's wonderful about living small.

"I like rhythm and structure, so I really enjoy my three rows of *carpinus fastigiata* (upright hornbeam). I like *buxus* and topiary. As both lend themselves so well to small, ordered spaces, they work well here." The plants are offset by a wall painted in Resene Sea Fog.

The fact that Marion prunes the hornbeam as trees with measured gaps is part of the magic of this garden. Being able to look between them lends a certain mystery, as well as visually lengthening the garden. And while extensive use of concrete might be another answer to maximising the space and keeping maintenance down, Marion has employed restraint. "I don't like concrete. Where I use pavers, I've often used them alternately with squares of mondo-grass planting. >





Up the drive the mondo grass is black; around the house it's green."

She has also planted plenty of *Michelia yunnanensis*, a shrub with gorgeous green foliage, which becomes studded with large, perfumed white flowers in spring. While it's always tempting for a seasoned gardener like Marion to include her favourite things from all of her previous gardens, she says it's important to start anew with each different site.

"The main thing is that with a small garden, achieving success is not nearly as easy as with a large garden. The smaller it is, the more difficult," Marion maintains. "You just have to be committed to keeping it simple. Plus, you realise really large plants just can't be included, no matter how much you love them." Marion's referring to her favourite rhododendron trees and roses (up to 200 in one garden) she's cared for previously.

For colour in this garden, she's concentrated on adding soft yellows, terracotta and white to the greenery. To colour-balance her terracotta-toned tulips, she encircles them in blue pansies. In her garden border, Marion thinks nothing of removing plants and starting again. She's been here only a few years, but the border has been "totally redone".


Marion has planted colour combinations which change with the seasons for year-round interest. The white flowers of the topiary coincide with the tulips in spring, which then fade and allow white roses and delphiniums to take centre stage slightly later. As far as trees go, Marion has steered away from her favoured *Magnolia denudata*, toward a smaller-leaved *Nyssa sylvatica*, which has beautiful burnished leaf colours in autumn.

To the south of the house, Marion has a vegetable garden which feeds her all summer, plus a cherry tree, compost bin and clothes line. A classically derived rectangular water feature, echoing the shapes in the house, is a focal point at the entry to the garden, complete with water lilies and irises.

Marion believes in outdoor spaces having soul, which she says is attributable to the person behind the garden fully embracing a style that reflects the site and its house. **H**

words Liesl Johnstone
pictures Juliet Nicholas



Resene
Double Barely There 

did you know...

that Resene CoolColour paint is formulated with special pigment technology to reflect more of the sun's heat than standard paint, to reduce stress on the coating and surface, and keep them cooler? It's ideal for darker colours, like Resene Arrowtown used on this home.



Above left Irises sprout from the simple water feature by the front door. The wall behind is Resene Arrowtown.


Left Plenty of green foliage means a wall painted in Resene Sea Fog is a tasteful structural backdrop.

Below Exuberant planting, formally contained within a border, gives extra dimension to the small garden.

Resene
Jalapeno 



Get the look with Resene Lumbersider waterborne low sheen tinted to Resene Arrowtown

Resene
Arrowtown 

Carpinus fastigiata
(upright hornbeam)

Resene
Planter 



Clipped buxus

Resene
Robin Hood 

Get the look with Resene Lumbersider waterborne low sheen tinted to Resene Sea Fog

Resene
Sea Fog 



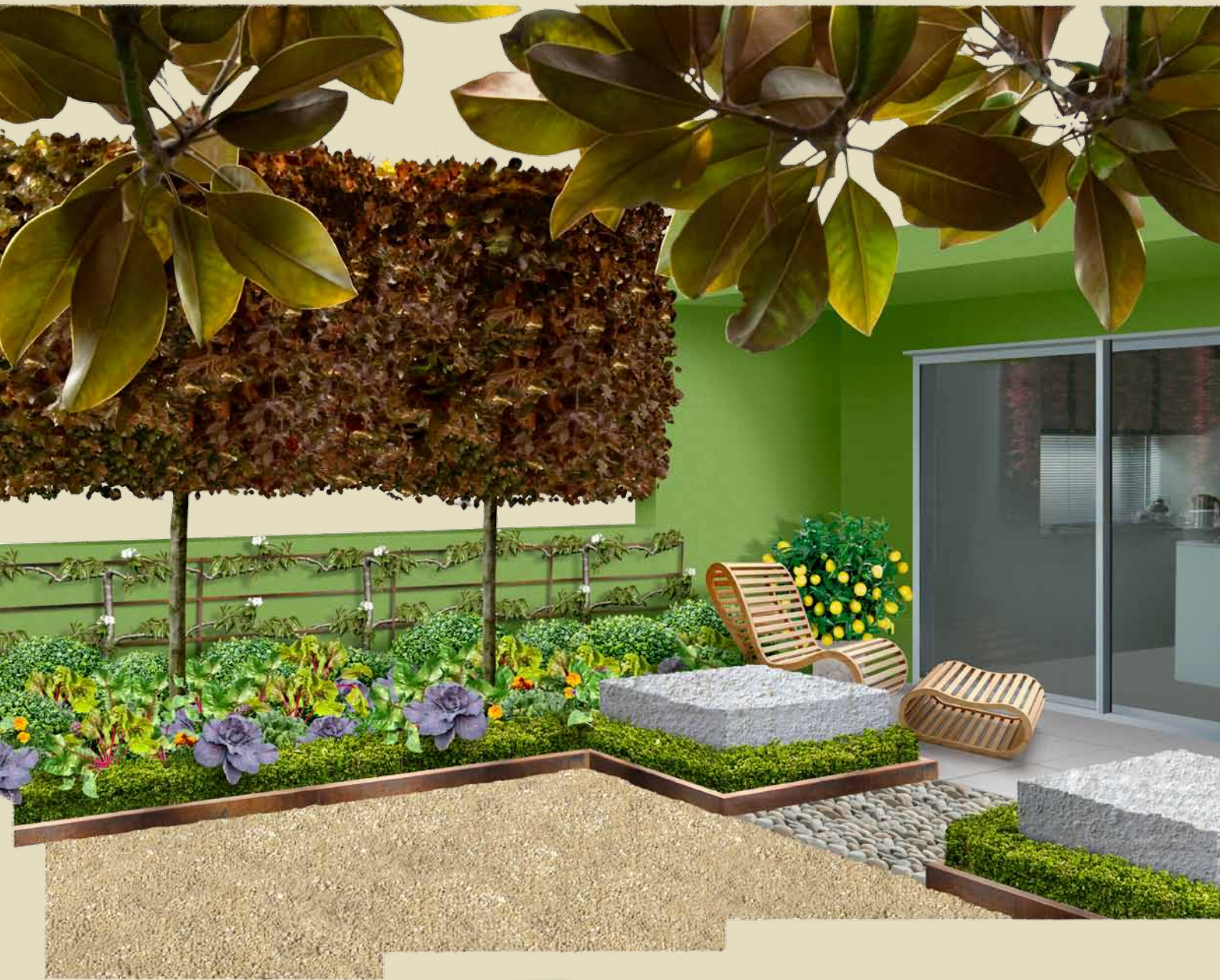
Rhododendron
Mi Amor

Resene
Melting Moment 



 Resene
Ayers Rock

turn the page for
alternative looks
for this garden



^ Colourful vegetables and fruit trees create a whimsical setting for outdoor dining and living, and are offset by Resene Koru garden and house walls.



Resene
Coconut Cream

a garden that combines bounty and style



Rachael Matthews of Hedge Garden Design & Nursery suggests this alternative scheme:

The aim is to create a gorgeous outside living space where the homeowners can get up close and personal with the birds and bees, flowers, fruit, fragrance and food! Picture a glass in hand, reaching out to pick strawberries, mint or lemons to garnish the drink of choice. Pathway lime replaces the lawn, and the walls are repainted a soft green, Resene Koru, which works well with the plant palette. Wider garden borders are edged in rusted (corten) steel. Cubed slabs of Oamaru stone mark the entrance to the garden and a pebble mosaic 'doormat' is practical and adds texture. Pleached copper beech hedging (hedging on stilts) is used to create privacy without taking up too much space and continues the russet tones in the garden. Fruit trees are espaliered on a frame and the existing topiary balls are rearranged more loosely. The rest of the garden is filled with edible flowers, vegetables, herbs and companion planting, set randomly rather than in straight lines. Out of shot, a table and chairs would be set for outdoor dining.

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Resene Koru 



>
Ruth 1 and Flip footstool
(stool shown in illustration at left)
David Trubridge
www.davidtrubridge.com



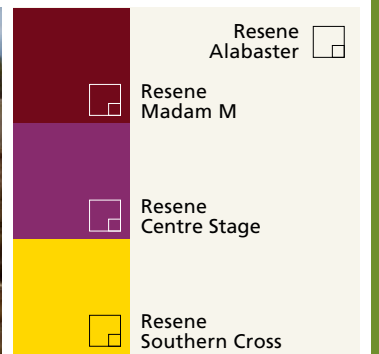
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Rainbow silverbeet







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Oamaru stone
Parkside Quarries
www.oamarustone.co.nz
03 433 1134



<
Artichokes



Resene Alabaster 
Resene Madam M 
Resene Centre Stage 
Resene Southern Cross 



>
Yellow marigolds



illustration
Malcolm White



^ This edgy garden is a showcase of textural foliage and colour, using custom-made wire sculptures painted Resene Pioneer Red and Resene Pukeko, as well as a pergola in Resene Blackout.

Resene
White Thunder

foliage is king in this bold scheme



Paul Roper-Gee from Beca suggests this alternative scheme:

This contemporary garden has a focus on foliage plants. The lawn is replaced by broad planting areas on either side of a gravel chip path that runs centrally through the garden from the house. Varying plant forms and textures include clipped English yew as a boundary hedge and buxus balls informally clustered. These contrast with the flowing forms and bold textures of grasses, perennials and groundcovers, including feathered reed grass, plume poppy, Japanese temple grass and Japanese spurge. Steel reinforcing rod and wire sculptures painted with Resene Pioneer Red and Resene Pukeko are scattered through the plants for vertical accent and splashes of colour. Large pots are planted with iris confusa, there's a table and chairs for outdoor dining and a lightweight steel pergola painted Resene Blackout is draped in ornamental grape to give shade in summer and autumnal colour.

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Resene Pioneer Red 







>
English yew
(Taxus baccata)

<
Acapulco chairs
Mamasita
www.mamasita.co.nz



>
Manutti Siena round dining table
McKenzie and Willis
www.mckenzieandwillis.co.nz
0800 888 999



Resene Half Baltic Sea 
Resene Westwood 
Resene Pukeko 
Resene Blackout 



<
Ironstone roll-top planters
Texture Plants
www.textureplants.co.nz
03 349 7296

>
Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'



illustration
Paul Roper-Gee