



UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

BILLY CLARKE, owner and head designer at the London Landscaping Company, on creating small urban gardens that pack a big punch

THIS CLASSIC KENSINGTON

courtyard is about as small a garden as you can get. But just because it's small, doesn't mean that it can't still look great. Although a challenge for any urban exterior designer, a small garden is still always an exciting prospect – one that requires innovation and vision.

One of the most interesting things about inner London is the variety and scope of its residential exterior spaces – be it roof terrace, courtyard or atrium. From the designers' perspective, this is a very exciting area with garden, interior and architectural design coming together. The main objectives are to create perceived space, maximise light and create a strong focal point of interest. Minimalism can also play its part, using

materials that reflect calm and cool neutrality. Stronger colours can be used as backdrop or to punctuate the space but not to be overused.

Furnishing should also be highly functional and very stylish. This is key

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for a garden such as the one pictured as it needs to stay fresh and be easily maintained. The beautiful handmade clay pots give a strong architectural dynamic to the courtyard too, bringing colour to the foreground without utilising precious space, also a good counterpoint to the water wall. This gives an excellent visual focal point from within, reinforcing the relationship between interior and exterior, creating a cool relaxing ambience and when lit is subtle, stunning and highly effective.

Exterior spaces can be as much for looking at as being in – complimenting and enhancing your living space. ■

If you're interested in finding out more, then call 020 8288 6466; email info@london-landscape.com; or visit www.london-landscape.com