



# *Beautiful* GARDENS

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR STYLISH OUTDOOR LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHY MARTINA GRAYSON

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DREAMS**  
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# FIELD OF DREAMS

Wildflower meadows and water features complement the

alpine-inspired design at this charming property

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**WILDLY DIFFERENT** Tumbling flower beds contrast beautifully with the deep colours and structured lines of this Mornington Peninsula home and garden. "The architecture uses natural materials like timber, steel and stone for a minimal look which contrasts with the wild, untamed wildflower meadows," says homeowner Kelli, whose interiors also feature on page 46.



ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



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he crowning accomplishment in an extensive five-year home renovation on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula is the enchanting gardens, which contrast exquisitely with the straight edges and brutalist materials of the property's architecture. "The garden was the final stage," says homeowner Kelli. "It brings out our home's true potential, aligning it with our vision of an ideal living space." Kelli, a gallery director and art advisor, lives on the property with her partner David, an entrepreneur, and their sons Sam, 20, and until recently, Jack, 22.

The home – designed by KWD – is painted in Dulux Taihape, creating a striking backdrop for the colourful gardens. "Our home and garden deliberately contrast to enhance each other, which creates lively interaction between the built and natural environments," says Kelli.

Nestled into the Port Phillip coast in Mount Martha, the design was handled by Melbourne landscape architect Heath Blair from Plume Studio. "The main objective was to soften the edges of the building," says Heath. "And to create a functional landscape that offered a multitude of scapes for different social needs." Kelli and David's brief called for an informal garden conducive to fireside conversations, with ample space for larger gatherings.

Evolving with the seasons, Heath chose plants that would create year-round splendour. "We wanted a garden that could be celebrated throughout the seasons," he says. "It's a garden that is fluid throughout the year. One that is soft and full of bloom one moment, then tactile and crunchy the next." Heath's material selection was equally thoughtful. "The limestone and burnished concrete offer a subtle and soft texture against a dark facade," he says. "These materials allow the different foliage colours and flowers to stand out throughout all seasons."

Now the garden is established, maintenance is handled by David Cane and his team at DJR Horticultural. "The term 'dream client' gets thrown around a lot," says Heath. "But Kelli and David were incredible, the conviction they had in our work was unbelievable." Equally happy with the result, Kelli concludes, "Our garden's natural beauty makes our home feel more connected to its surroundings and offers an escape from our structured indoor spaces."

**WHITE BLOOMS** Pretty white Japanese windflowers brighten up shady corners. **OPPOSITES ATTRACT** Landscape architect Heath chose soft mid-grey limestone pavers and plenty of greenery (opposite) to add contrast against the dark facade of the home. "These materials allow the different foliage colours and flowers to stand out in all seasons," says Heath. 'Garonne' tumbled limestone pavers from Eco Outdoor complement a giant agave and lush Boston ivy. >

“THE GARDEN HAS BEEN PUSHED TO THE BORDER OF THE HOME, WHICH ANCHORS THE SITE AND SOOTHES ITS EDGES”

HEATH, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



**CYCLE OF LIFE** “We curated these plants due to their seasonality,” says Heath. “Mixed within an evergreen structure so there are always layers of texture for an ever-changing landscape.” Krause Emperor bricks in Ghost Grey (above left) border the serene water feature, while velvety lamb’s ear and grasses soften the edges. **EN MASSE** Whirling butterflies (above right) are pretty perennials that provide gentle movement and “flushes of soft white flowers through spring and summer”, says Heath. **HARMONIOUS HUES** Aiming for a cohesive look, Heath used the same colours, textures and materials throughout the garden. Shown here (opposite) at the front of the home, ‘Garonne’ tumbled limestone steppers from Eco Outdoor and the full length of the water feature, where the border of delicate flowers and foliage has visual impact against the lines of the hardscaping. >



**WINDOW DRESSING** Boston ivy trained up the building (top left) creates layers of textured green against a dark exterior. **SUN LOVERS** Whirling butterflies, lamb's ears and snow pear were chosen for their ability to thrive in the sun (top right). **SUBTLE TONE** There is an abundance of seasonal white blooms, including Sedum spectabile 'Iceberg' in the foreground (bottom left). **MAKE A SPLASH** The copper slimline outdoor shower (bottom right) is from Hollowtree Showers. **POOL PARTY** A southern magnolia frames the poolside area (opposite). Lounge chairs are both 'Balmain' teak chaises from Restoration Hardware. The rusty orange underside of the weeping lilly pilly leaves provides contrast against the neutral palette. "In the rear garden we wanted this to feel different to the front," says Heath. "So, we chose plants with different flower colours and contrasting foliage." >

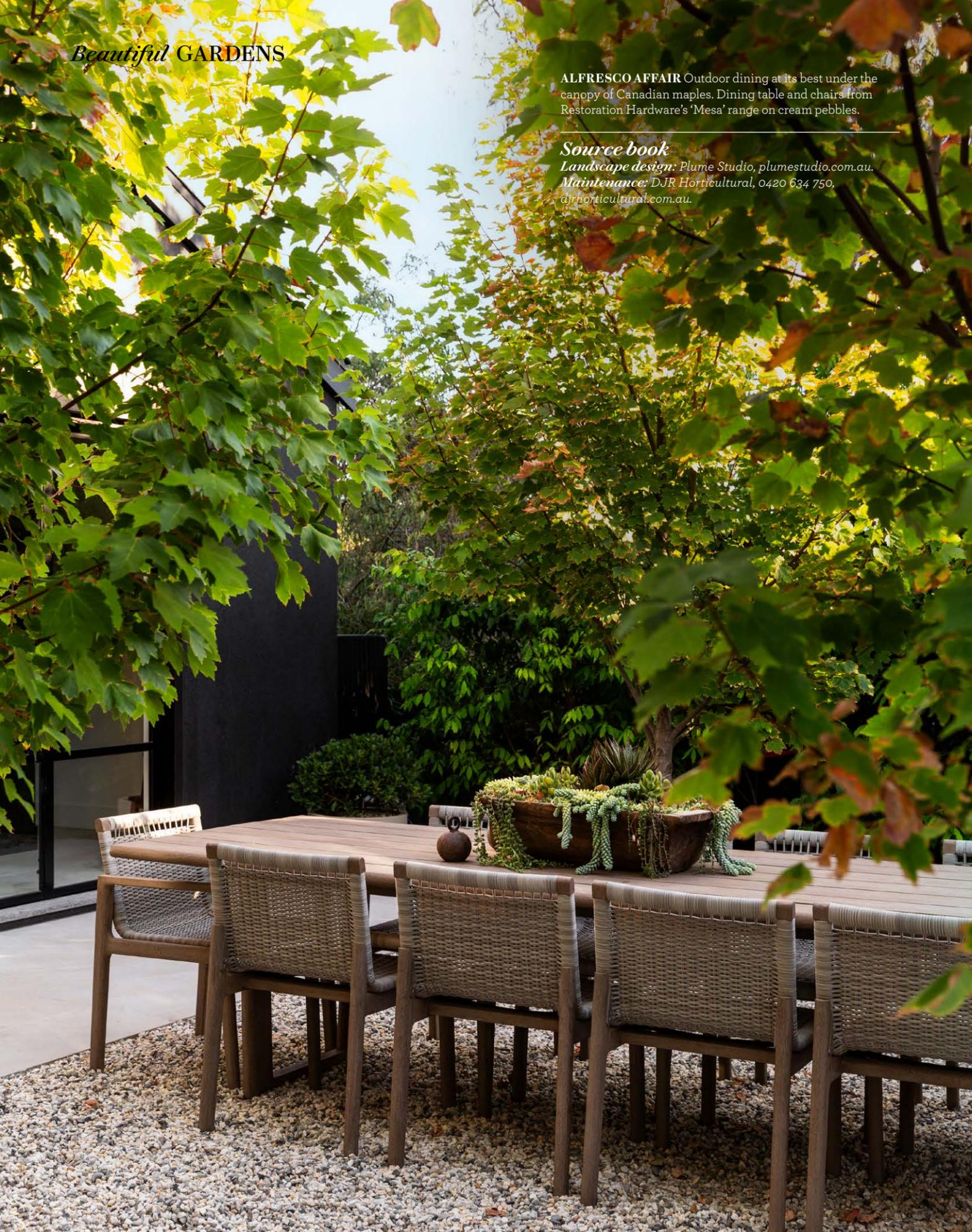
# Beautiful GARDENS

**ALFRESCO AFFAIR** Outdoor dining at its best under the canopy of Canadian maples. Dining table and chairs from Restoration Hardware's 'Mesa' range on cream pebbles.

## Source book

**Landscape design:** Plume Studio, [plumestudio.com.au](http://plumestudio.com.au).

**Maintenance:** DJR Horticultural, 0420 634 750, [djrhorticultural.com.au](http://djrhorticultural.com.au).



### GARDEN NOTES

1. Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*) boasts velvety soft, silver foliage.
2. Landscape architect Heath Blair of Plume Studio enjoys a comfy perch.
3. White crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei* 'Natchez') is a pretty addition with its delicate, light flowers.
4. Japanese white windflower (*Anemone japonica*) brightens shaded areas with its happy blooms on slender stems.
5. Mediterranean spurge (*Euphorbia wulfenii*) brings depth to the garden with its blue-grey contrasting foliage.
6. Native violet (*Viola hederacea*) provides a lush carpet year-round.
7. Daisies (*Aster x frikartii* 'Monch') bring a happy pop of purple to the landscape with their abundant blooms.
8. Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) is a seasonal backdrop. 🍷

