



Taking shelter

A fireplace, high boundary walls and adjustable louvres ensure this cosy courtyard is inviting – even on cooler evenings

To be effective an outdoor area needs to be large enough for its purpose, convenient and comfortable to use.

The home featured here had a poky little deck, and the rest of the garden sloped away. However, the overall area was large and had good potential.

“We wanted indoor/outdoor flow and a space with privacy for use year round. It had to have a warm, welcoming

ambience and a design that blended with the architecture of the house,” the owner says.

To achieve this, landscape designer Sam Lockie cut and filled the sloping garden to create a single, level area that could be accessed through French doors off the living room. Part of the new space was paved, and a pergola with adjustable louvres was added. An outdoor fireplace improves the

ambience and means the area can be used all year. To create a sense of intimacy for the dining area, the paving is framed by a narrow band of pebbles. Kwila decking surrounds the paving and extends the space.

To complement the style of the home and provide privacy, boundary and retaining walls are plastered. Tropical planting and a water feature add life to the hard landscaping.

Landscape designer: Sam Lockie, Landscape Transformations LIANZ (Auckland)

Paving: Tile New Zealand

Decking: Kwila

Fencing: Betta Panels and Walls

Lighting design: Landscape Transformations

Outdoor fire: Fireplace Solutions

Water feature: Granite flamed block from Stone Direct

Pergola: Louvretec

Pebbles: Stone and Water World

Planting: Rainbow Park

Above left: Built-in kwila seating frames the outer edges of this outdoor living space. Lush tropical planting softens the hard surfaces and improves privacy. A basalt cube blends into the seating, creating a subtle water feature.

Above: Adjustable louvres and a fireplace make this outdoor area comfortable to use all year round.

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