

# T

# OUTDOOR LIVING

Volume 21 No 3

**\$9.95**  
Includes GST

Trendsideas.com

# TRENDS

®



ISSN 1175-5121



9 771175 512001



# Eastern repose

Japanese and Balinese gardens transform this outdoor living area into a lush, textured space suitable for contemplation and reflection

**Previous pages:** Lush planting, a waterfall and an arched stone bridge provide an area for quiet contemplation in this outdoor living area featuring Japanese and Balinese gardens.

**Above:** A Japanese Oribe lantern guides visitors through a pathway to another garden.

**Facing page:** The waterfall and pond are bordered by mossy stones.

Plants chosen for their distinctive foliage can do more than just soften the edges of an outdoor environment. Imaginative planting has the potential to transform an exterior into an abundantly rich and textured environment.

When Ken Lamb of Imperial Gardens created this outdoor living area for a renovated 1950s home, he sought inspiration from Asia. The Japanese and Balinese gardens he designed feature a variety of exotic plants and decorative elements.

At the entrance to the house a Japanese garden with a natural water feature creates a dramatic first impression for visitors. Surrounding the waterfall,

there is a range of planting such as Buddhist pine, mondo grass, azalea and magnolia.

"The planting is layered to follow the steps of the pathway and to reflect movement through the garden," says Lamb.

The pond is bordered by mossy bush rocks which create an established look. There is also a sloping pebble beach constructed partly underwater to create an illusion of depth.

"The entire arrangement is designed to represent cliffs, lakes and the seashore," says Lamb.

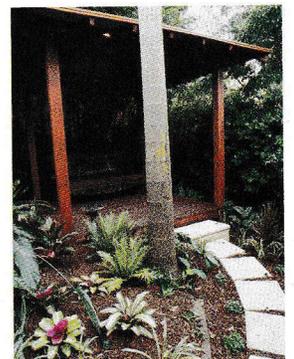
A slab of arched stone provides a bridge across the pond to complete an area designed for quiet





**Landscape designer:** Ken Lamb  
BA, LCA, AILDM,  
Imperial Gardens (Sydney)  
**Builder:** Imperial Gardens  
**Decorative elements and  
planting:** Imperial Gardens  
Nursery

**Photography by Mark Mawson**



reading and solitary contemplation.

Beside the pond, a Japanese Oribe lantern made from light-grey granite illuminates a pathway leading to the Balinese garden.

In contrast to the simplicity of Japanese design, this garden is colourful and varied. Initially inspired by existing tropical plants, Lamb has introduced many Balinese touches, such as the placement of decorative objects among the plants.

A terracotta bowl, placed inside a rejuvenated pond, is surrounded by distinctive plants such as red cordyline and black taro.

A Balinese stone pathway leads to a covered

seating area called a balé. Constructed from kwila timber, the structure has a traditional double angled roof. When seated on the Balinese daybed inside the balé, visitors can enjoy a view of three decorative panels placed on the house exterior and a collection of exotic plants directly in front.

Lamb says this previously unused part of the garden has been transformed into an intimate area in which the homeowners can entertain guests or just sit and appreciate the garden.

"The trend in landscape design is for textured foliage, ensuring plenty of visual contrast and enabling the creation of distinctive, individual areas."

**Facing page:** The pebble beach is partly underwater to create an illusion of depth.

**Above left:** Lush planting creates an established look in a garden that is only a year old.

**Above:** An outdoor seating area, modelled on a Balinese balé, sits at the end of the pathway.