



# HOW TO DESIGN

## *small courtyards*



The key to good garden design, in any form, is to keep it simple. This is especially true when designing small courtyard areas. The urge to try and fit in as many different features as possible, can make a garden feel cluttered and less enjoyable. A great way of determining how best to use your outdoor space is to understand how it can be capable of accommodating those elements you'd really like to install. Which may mean your list has to be revised.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY VALLEY GARDEN LANDSCAPES





## EXPERT ADVICE



### ALL ON DECK

This courtyard shows how simple it can be to really get the best results for your garden. The clients of this project wanted to incorporate a long list of items including a lawn, decking area, shade, privacy, a water feature and a space for an outdoor kitchen with a barbecue. If all of these items had been put in, the space would have felt far too chaotic, especially considering it can be viewed internally from three sides. For me,

the best approach was simplicity. I installed a large entertainment deck compartmentalised by the introduction of island planting beds. This creates the illusion of a room within a room as well as keeping spaces open. Screening was created with the introduction of a raised planter and a round water feature, which was installed as a key feature of the entertaining area as well as to create atmosphere with its soothing natural sounds.

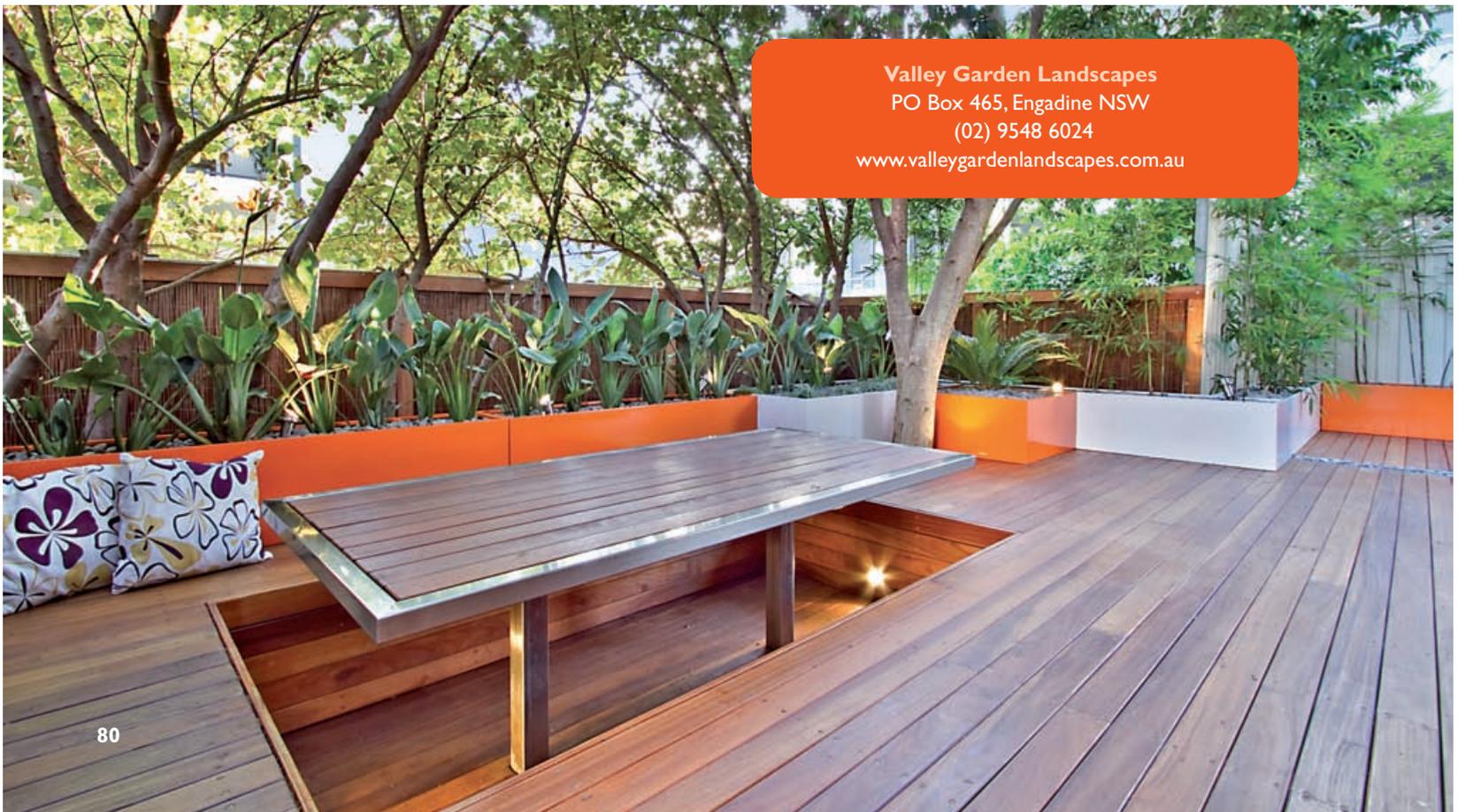




### SHADY PINES

This beautiful courtyard is another great example of how much you can do with a small outdoor space. There are only a handful of design elements in this courtyard, such as the in-built seating area and a shed, but it looks amazing. The sunken table is a stunning example of how every inch of space can be utilised

when needed. Planting troughs were installed to introduce a splash of colour into the area as well as softening the hard landscaping aspects overall. The troughs also act as a backrest to the sunken table, giving them a dual purpose. By keeping the material palette and design simple, this courtyard is a classic example of less is more.



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