

LOW- MAINTENANCE GARDENS

10 simple steps to
beautiful, easy &
stylish outside spaces



CAROLINE TILSTON

Photography by Steve Gorton

Pergola

Simon Gill, the architect who designed this garden, was given a brief to transform a pretty standard back garden into a low-maintenance garden that fits with a new extension, that would withstand use by children and wouldn't be too costly.



Before





What he decided to do was to 'concentrate the money' on a wonderful steel and concrete structure, a beautiful place to sit and a really unusual focal point for the garden which fits in perfectly with the work Simon has done inside the house.

When you're transforming a garden it's worth thinking about this route, concentrating all your effort and cash on one spectacular thing in the garden – a statue, a water feature or a pergola. If you are going this way, leave the rest of the garden completely minimalist so you don't distract from the show. If this garden had normal flower beds around and climbers, the effect of the structure would be immeasurably lessened. Plants, the things which create the work, would actually have made the garden worse in this case. Instead Simon has concentrated on good design – the rest of the garden looks clean and simple. The walls have been rendered and painted white. The entire effect is to make the uprights of the structure stand out and give a great backdrop to the mauve of the seat.

It's also worth thinking about artificial grass. The clients here have children so the garden needs to be robust enough to take their ball games. The walls and the fake grass are just right to withstand the worst that the children can throw at them.



Garden Plan

The main view into the garden, from the sitting room, has been kept clear with a view down to the tree; the structure is tucked away to the side, to be discovered once you are out in the garden and to make the most of the sunniest spot in the garden.

On the floor is grass – fake grass, the perfect low-maintenance addition to any garden.

Simon Gill, the architect who designed this garden, has used modern materials to make an amazing structure in this garden to give a focal point to the 'room'.

Underneath the pergola is a built-in table and chairs. The table is painted an eye-catching mauve so it shines out against the white walls.

The structure is made of galvanised steel and wood. Its lines follow the lines of the light well – at a slight angle to the house to catch as much light as possible for the below-ground kitchen.

It was important to have the walls of the room perfect and perfectly in keeping with the design – they are a crucial part of this minimalist look, so Simon has rendered and painted them to give a completely clean canvas for the garden. This immediately gives a whole new feel to the garden.



► From inside the house, the clean walls of the garden appear to be a continuation of the inside walls.





▲ A concrete wall screens off the sitting area from the rest of the garden.

▼ Fake grass has been used on the floor – the perfect low-maintenance solution for a garden.

► Wooden and steel uprights make geometric patterns and cast shadows across the walls.



LOW- MAINTENANCE GARDENS

10 simple steps to
beautiful, easy
and stylish
outside spaces

Some of the most wonderful, exciting and innovative, contemporary gardens are also incredibly low maintenance. These new designs rely on great structure and exciting materials - low maintenance doesn't have to be all hard surfaces and drab planting. Here, Caroline Tilston shows you how to treat your garden as you would any other room in the house, designing, decorating, lighting and styling it. A world of possibilities is opening up for stunning gardens that also happen to require minimal care.

- Illustrated with specially drawn garden plans
- Packed with highly practical tips and quick-fix solutions
- Includes in detail 10 beautiful gardens to inspire
- One of four new exciting Garden Style Guides titles

www.gardenstyleguides.com



WILEY
wiley.com

UK £9.99 / US \$16.95 / CAN \$ 18.95



ISBN: 978-0-470-51751-2



9 780470 517512