

# UP ON the roof

When the children want to play or the parents fancy a get-together, everyone heads on up to the rooftop garden





Properly planned and expertly designed, a rooftop garden can quickly become a busy young family's favourite hangout. It can be a place to entertain, dine or simply unwind. It can also be a children's play space, you just need to come up with a flexible design that can adapt to the needs of every family member, even the littlest ones.

This garden in the Sydney suburb of Bondi Junction was built on top of a garage and shows that adaptability and creating a space that is kid-friendly doesn't mean the space can't be contemporary and a fine example of high-end design.

"The brief was to create a cool rooftop garden that reflects the contemporary Scandinavian style of the home. The owners have two children so they required a space that would be fun, but they like to entertain, too, so the space had to be as adaptable as possible," explains designer Adam Robinson of Adam Robinson Design. »

**OPENER** Given the family entertains on a regular basis, a large dining table and plenty of seating were required.

**OPPOSITE** As the garden sits atop the garage roof, the raised planter boxes are waterproof to prevent leaks.

**TOP** Tucked into an alcove, the barbecue area features a splashback of handmade tiles that add textural interest.

**ABOVE** This rooftop garden, constructed by Mahony Landscapes, meets the needs of every member of the family.



For the kids, there is a sandbox on wheels but they can also use the large table for playing games. To keep them protected from the hot summer sun, there is a broad umbrella set in a timber base that keeps it stable but makes it easy to move to wherever it is needed.

Two outdoor beanbags, which can be hung out of the way on wall hooks, provide the kids with something super comfy to sit on; they're also put to good use when the family entertains, which is frequently.

"This is a family that loves to entertain, so a big table was required as was a quality barbecue to cater for large dinners," says Adam. An outdoor cooking nook was created, featuring a built-in barbecue, bench space and a splashback clad in handmade tiles. By placing the barbecue in an alcove, the sleek lines of the overall space are maintained.

The large table is of white-washed timber and is teamed with contemporary chairs made of polypropylene. The curves of the replica Philippe Starck Masters chairs soften the lines of the table and their sturdiness makes them ideal to be climbed upon by children.

Pots of various sizes bring plant life into the space, as do the built-in planter boxes. Mostly exotic plants (frangipani, sansevieria, bromeliads, succulents) with an interesting

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texture and form were used. Waterproofing the raised planters was essential so there would be no problems with leakage into the garage below.

After a hard day's play or a fun alfresco meal, the owners wanted to be able to simply hose down the area, making cleaning easy. Combining cutting-edge style with practicality, Adam chose polished concrete paving. The concrete works with the charcoal-coloured planter boxes and modern furnishings to create an overall contemporary look.

#### Garden design

Adam Robinson Design  
adamrobinsondesign.com

**OPPOSITE** The plants, in both the pots and planter boxes, were chosen for their texture, form and hardiness.

**ABOVE LEFT** Plants in statement pots, including a frangipani, add greenery and act as design focal points.

**ABOVE RIGHT** Space-saving ideas were implemented, such as wall hooks where outdoor beanbags can be hung.