

HOME

Bring the joy of nature into your home

A strong advocate for the many benefits that nature and being outdoors can bring, **Adam Robinson** of Adam Robinson Design talks about how an outdoor area of any size can be turned into a relaxing space to enjoy.

As one of Sydney's leading landscape designers and exterior stylists, Adam Robinson lives and breathes the modern Australian lifestyle. He understands Sydneysiders' love for the outdoors, and specialises in creating breathtaking and practical outdoor spaces.

Honing his love for gardening from a young age while pottering around his parents' garden, Adam completed his trade course as a landscaper, and went on to study landscape design and interior design. After working for a number of landscaping firms, he decided to set up his own business in 2011 while offering outdoor styling services for various lifestyle magazines.

Today, Adam is the go-to designer and stylist for discerning homeowners looking for on-trend outdoor spaces to enjoy and to add value to their properties.

Stay grounded

WHILE the luxury of having sprawling gardens in a metropolis like Sydney is limited to a lucky few, Adam strongly believes that any outdoor space, regardless of how big or small, should be enjoyed to its full potential.

"Loving the outdoors is part of our DNA as Australians. We love the sun, we love the fresh air, and we love being in nature. And enjoying the outdoors can be done even within smaller spaces, such as the balcony of an apartment or a courtyard of a townhouse," said Adam.

Adam, who thoroughly enjoys the challenge of turning modest outdoor spaces into relaxing sanctuaries, said it is all about being clever and practical about selecting the right features of the out-



Photo: Natalie Hunfalvay



Photo: Esteban La Tessa

doors when creating a small garden.

"There is certainly no need to go all out when designing a garden for a smaller outdoor space. Choosing just a few potted plants or small fruit trees still allows one to connect with nature by doing simple tasks like pruning, gardening and watering. These little actions not only help us stay grounded to nature, there is also a huge sense of pride in caring for and watching a plant grow."

Herb gardens, according to Adam, are another great way to enjoy nature in a modern environment.

"There is so much satisfaction in tending to a herb garden, and to be able to walk out to your balcony or courtyard, snip off some basil or mint leaves or a sprig of rosemary, and use it in your cooking. It's another great way to involve nature in your everyday life," said Adam.

The right choices

WITH many of Adam's clients leading busy lifestyles, it is essential for him to design low-maintenance gardens and select low-maintenance plants to ensure that the outdoor spaces created are enjoyable to live with.

"You don't need to have a whole rainforest in your backyard to enjoy nature and greenery. Choosing natural textures in the garden, such as stones and timber, can very easily create that organic and natural feeling of the outdoors as well," noted Adam.

Selecting the right plants is crucial in

creating a practical outdoor space.

"We all live busy lives, so low-maintenance plants that are easy to grow and require low-water usage are certainly my recommendations. Mediterranean varieties such as an olive tree, or hardy herbs like rosemary plants, and the ever-popular succulents are all great options that do not require any special horticultural knowledge for them to thrive."

A stress-free process

MARRYING up both his knowledge in interior design and landscaping, Adam transforms his clients' backyards, balconies and rooftops into stylish garden settings by taking over the entire project.

"We provide a complete start to finish service – from design and building to styling the new space with the most suitable furniture and accessories," explained Adam.

"Every project begins with an in-depth discussion with the client to fully understand how they would like to make use of their outdoor space.

"Entertainers might opt for a large alfresco dining area, an older couple might want plenty of room for a lush flower bed, and a young family might prefer a safe and open area for the kids to play, with lounging space to relax in. No brief is ever the same as another – from the available space to budget to the desired look, each project is a bespoke solution that encompasses all of a client's desires."

Adam pays close attention to the interior styling of a client's home, to ensure that both the indoor and outdoor space has synergy.

"We always aim to create nice flow from inside to out, where the outdoor area becomes an extension of the home. This can be achieved by using similar colours and materials so that both spaces 'talk' to one another."

With strong working relationships with some of Sydney's best builders, Adam promises his clients the best quality in workmanship and materials used, while obtaining highly competitive prices.

And finally, Adam and his team present the newly designed outdoor garden with picture-perfect styling, selecting the most suitable finishes, fixtures and furniture.

"At Adam Robinson Design, we are not only landscape designers and stylists, we also act as agents for our clients. Instead of sending our clients across the city to visit various showrooms and putting them through the tedious task of sourcing for suppliers and getting quotes, we look after the entire process.

"We keep the client in the loop through the whole process – we show them samples to select from, we get their approval through various stages of the project, and we ensure they get the outdoor space of their dreams, minus all the hassle."

Adam Robinson Design
(02) 8354 1077
adamrobinsondesign.com

Adam Robinson Design

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f t @ p www.adamrobinsondesign.com