

KEEPING THE peace

This peaceful landscape is a confident fusion of native Australian plants and Japanese-inspired design elements

The design has traditional Japanese design elements, an informal structure and a subtle bush feel.





There is something inherently peaceful about a Japanese garden. The same can be said for a native Australian bush garden. Put them together and you have a space that is visually engaging and soothing to the senses.

When the owners called on garden designer Dave Limburg of Peaceful Landscapes, their brief was to create a visually interesting, highly textural garden space that would inspire children in their play while bringing enjoyment to the older members of the family.

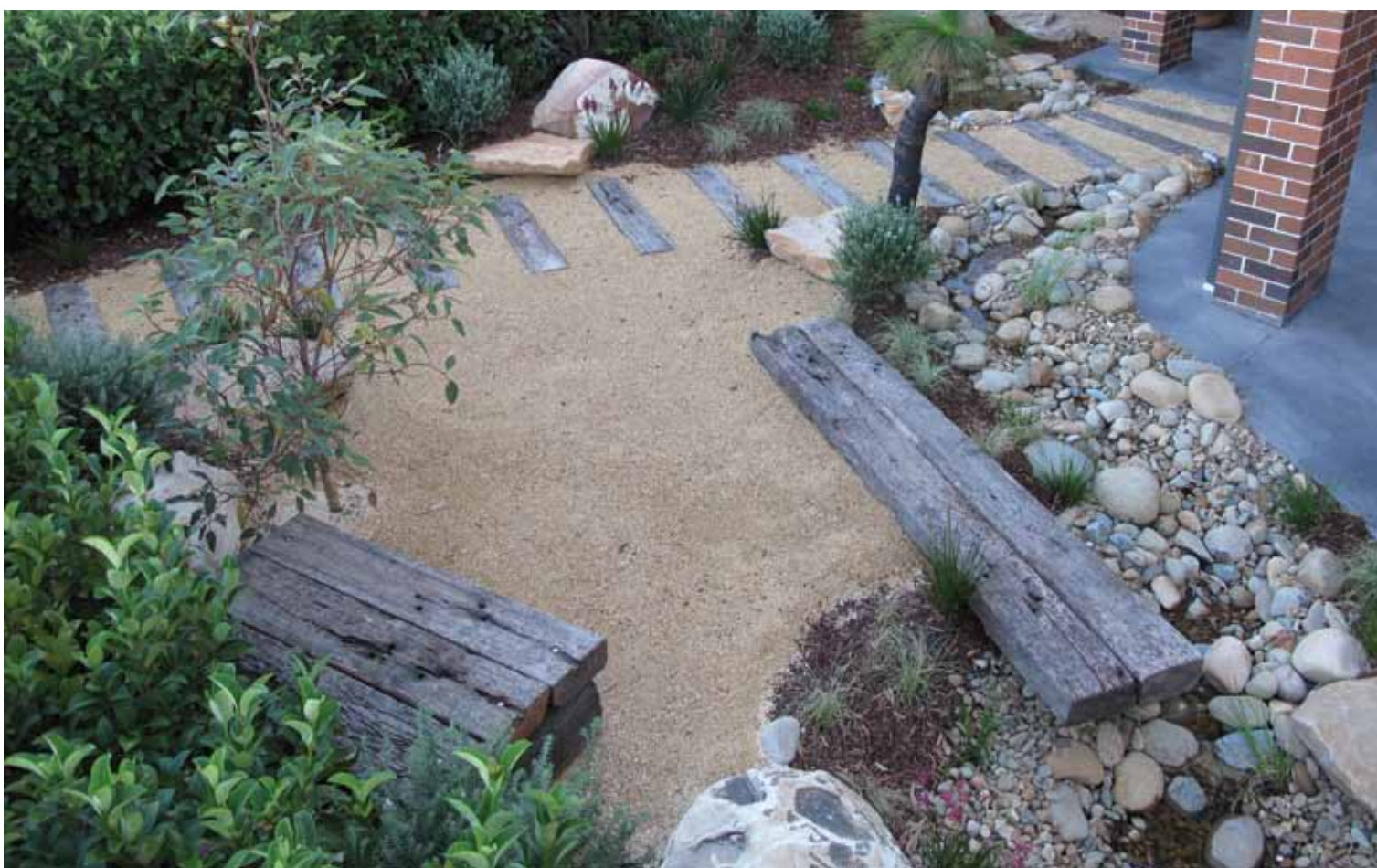
“The garden is a fusion of Japanese aesthetics and Australian native plants. It incorporates all the rules of Japanese garden design yet delivers a relaxed, informally structured garden with a subtle bushland feel,” says Dave. “The waterfall, creek and bottom pond are the highlights for me. The gentle trickle of the water and the meandering creek give a lovely sense of peace to the garden. I also love the variety of different native plants with their contrasting and complementary foliage, forms and flowers.”

Australian native plants make up the bulk of the planting list, which includes a gum that produces vibrant red flowers, grass trees, kangaroo paws, westringias, and a wide selection of native grasses. Peaceful Landscapes also incorporated a few exotics (such as sweet viburnum and buxus) to introduce some foliage fullness.

For added character, several of the key design elements were fashioned using recycled materials. Reclaimed railway sleepers were used as feature seating and steppers while reconstituted granite was used as the main paving material. This creates an informal appearance, softens the look of the garden, and is permeable so water soaks into the ground rather than washing away.

Dave’s other goal for the garden was to make it child-friendly and

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OPPOSITE TOP For a rustic effect, reclaimed railway sleepers were put to excellent use as steppers and seating.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM The reconstituted granite paving softens the overall look and allows water to soak into the ground.

TOP The water feature, comprising a natural waterfall, creek and pond, is a highlight of the design.

LEFT The hedge of sweet viburnum acts as a backdrop for the largely Australian native planting palette.

interactive, without looking like a playground. “We overcame this challenge by incorporating a range of sensory elements and materials into the garden — the water feature, recycled railway sleepers, river pebbles, reconstituted granite, sandstone boulders and an extensive array of plants,” he explains.

The final touch was to add landscape lighting to highlight the main features of the garden after sunset and to paint an alluring nightscape that could be enjoyed by the owners when they looked out from the house — and by those passing by on the street. ✿

Landscape design and construction

Peaceful Landscapes

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