

# Lush + LAYERED

This textural and layered outdoor space is a perfect retreat for a young family to unwind and entertain.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN** OUTSIDE IN / **STYLING** GREY PEG INTERIORS  
**LANDSCAPING INSTALL** INEX PRO OUTDOOR LIVING  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** GATHERING LIGHT / **WORDS** NICHOLA DAVIES

**SHOP THE LOOK** Succulent bowls from Perth Succulent Bowls; 'Banyule' crazy paving from Mataka Stone; GlobeWest 'Haven' occasional outdoor chairs from Roxby Lane.





*"I wanted something different, soft and curved, so I came up with the thought of adding a daybed to the configuration and I love it!"*

- DENISE STAFFA, OUTSIDE IN

Having moved from Sydney to Perth, and both leading busy professional lives, homeowners Chloe and her husband wanted a relaxing outdoor space to come home to.

Before enlisting Denise Staffa of Outside In to redesign their back garden, the couple would keep their curtains closed so that they wouldn't see the view, which Denise describes as "dull and drab to say the least".

"It was dominated by a concrete post-and-panel retaining wall in a dated colour," says Denise. "Gardens were overgrown, with a mismatched colour palette, and an existing timber bench seat was uninviting to use as it was too high to sit on and in front of an ugly strip drain."

The couple's new French bulldog puppy, Winnie, meant the drop from the upper lawn to the alfresco area was a concern, as were the steps, which were too high for little legs.

"It took me ages to design the shape of the formed concrete bench seat," remembers Denise. "I wanted something different - soft and curved - so I came up with the idea of adding a daybed to the configuration, and I love it!"

Denise's design solution for the drop-off from the retaining wall was to create an additional barrier using Scyon Axon vertical panels. These were installed behind the timber seat, giving it a booth-like feel.







BEFORE



KEY PLANTS

- Tristaniopsis laucisious laurina
- Philodendron Little Phil
- Lomandra longifolia Tanika
- Miss Muffet
- Blue Chalk Sticks
- Cousin It
- Emu Bush
- Kalbarri Carpet
- Dichondra Silver Falls



Denise introduced a carefully considered selection of plants into the garden, with the aim of creating a space that was layered and lush but also relatively low maintenance. An existing frangipani was transplanted, as were some Bangalow palms, and plenty of fillers and ground covers were utilised.

"The top gardens are planted with trees for screening and privacy," Denise explains "The fenced-in side lawn area has been planted with sweet viburnum (*Viburnum odoratissimum*), which will form a tall hedge."

Since the makeover, says Denise, "Chloe has had a gorgeous baby!", and the family now uses the space every day – and they keep their curtains open too.

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