



Chilling out in **PALM SPRINGS**

Transform your outdoors into an outpost of mid-century retro style

REFLECT THE DESERT LANDSCAPE

Use pebbles as mulch around a variety of cacti and sun-loving succulents. Randomly place larger boulders throughout your garden beds to complete the look.

INSPIRED BY DESIGN

Structures with strong horizontal and vertical lines are signature of the Palm Springs style. Soften the look with organic shapes and colours.



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**SET UP YOUR
CHILL-OUT ZONE**

An outdoor easy chair tucked away in a corner is the perfect spot to relax and take it easy. It's no accident that it's within arm's reach of the fridge either!

**PICK A PLANT THAT
SUITS THE STYLE**

No desert-themed landscape would be complete without a cactus or two. Their full sun, minimal water needs makes them perfect for the Aussie climate.



**ANYONE FOR A
SNAG?**

Complete your transformation by setting up your entertainment zone. A barbecue is a must-have, and positioning the table in close proximity means your guest's meals will be hot off the grill.

EASY STEPS TO YOUR PERGOLA

Gather your supplies

- **Posts** 90 x 90mm x 3.6m H4 treated pine
- **Perimeter beams** 240 x 42mm LVL
- **Quick-set concrete** (2 x 20kg bags per post)
- **Centre and cross beams** 200 x 42mm LVL
- **Roof battens** 90 x 42mm H3 primed treated pine
- **Fascia** 185 x 30mm H3 primed treated pine
- **Timber frame bottom plate** 90 x 90mm finger-jointed Merbau
- **Timber frame studs and top plate** 90 x 42mm finger-jointed Merbau
- **Painted frame bottom plate** 88 x 88mm H3 primed treated pine
- **Painted frame studs and top plate** 90 x 42mm H3 primed treated pine

For you to note

All timber painted with 2 coats of white exterior paint prior to installation.

You'll also need

Stringlines; measuring tape; post-hole digger; combination square; circular saw; hammer; chisel; timber blocks and braces; spirit level; clamps; 16mm clear plastic tube (for water level); drill driver; various drill bits; 100 and 150mm batten screws; crowbar; paving sand; angle grinder fitted with diamond blade; chalkline; Sikaflex exterior adhesive and sealant; caulking gun; 65mm screws; exterior PVA glue; exterior timber filler; sander; exterior paint in white; painting equipment



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5

STEP 1 Mark out for pergola posts using stringlines. The pergola is square, measuring 5.6 x 5.6m. At the back there is a post in each corner with 2 posts between these 2m from each corner, making them about 1.6m apart. At the sides, there are 2 central posts matching the positions of those along the back. At the front there are 2 central posts only, leaving the front corners post-free as the beams overhang. Place front posts 15mm closer to the sides of the pergola than the rear posts to accept the central beams.

STEP 2 Gently prise up your pavers where the posts will be. Use a post-hole digger to dig holes for posts 800mm deep.

STEP 3 At one end of the posts, use a combination square to mark out for 240mm long and 15mm deep rebate for pergola beams. On corner posts at back of pergola, mark out for rebates on 2 adjacent sides of the post. Set circular saw to cut 50mm deep and run saw along each side of the rebate.

STEP 4 Reset saw to cut 15mm deep and run across post at bottom of rebate. Use hammer and chisel to knock out waste timber and smooth bottom of rebate.

STEP 5 Sit posts in holes along back. At bottom of 1 corner post, screw a block to the post so the bottom of the rebate at the top of the post sits 2.4m from the paving.



STEP 6



STEP 7



STEP 8

STEP 6 Use spirit level to make the post plumb. Clamp braces to the post to hold it in this position.

STEP 7 To make other corner post level with the first, use a water level, which is a clear 16mm plastic tube filled with water, making sure there are no air bubbles. It works on the fact that water will always find its own level. Make marks on both posts 900mm down from the rebate, then hold each end of the tube against the posts, making the level of the water in the tube match the mark on the first post. By making the mark on the other post level with the water level there, the two posts are the same level. Screw block to bottom of post at paver to hold it at this level.

STEP 8 Plumb and brace the second corner post.

STEP 9 Lift rear beam into position so it sits in rebates on corner posts. Each end of beam should overhang inside of rebate on adjacent face of post by 42mm so side beams can butt into them. Clamp to hold.

STEP 10 Predrill and screw through the beam into the post using 100mm batten screws. Use 3 screws per post.



STEP 9

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Turn an empty exterior space into an outdoor room by adding a little bit of luxury design with a pergola

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STEP 10

DIY TIP

Batten screws were used here to minimise their visual impact. A more solid fixing is to drill through and bolt the beam to the post.



STEP 11



STEP 12



STEP 13



STEP 14



STEP 15

STEP 11 Clamp central posts to beam to suit their spacing and make sure they are plumb. Predrill and screw central posts to beam.

STEP 12 Continue installing all posts and side beams, using the water level to make the posts level with the first. Rebates on front posts are parallel with the sides to accept beams running from the back of the pergola.

STEP 13 Half fill the post holes with water and pour in quick-set concrete. Use a crowbar or rod to thoroughly mix concrete. Leave the concrete below the sand layer so you can refill it and relay the paver. Repeat for all posts and leave to set.

STEP 14 Install centre beams running from side of central posts at back of pergola to sit in rebate of posts at the front. Predrill and screw through beams into posts.

STEP 15 Install the beam running along the front of the pergola. As there are no posts to support it, clamp blocks to each of the side beams to sit the front beam on while you fix it. Predrill and screw through front beam into side and central beams using three 150mm batten screws per joint.

STEP 16 Measure and mark for cross beams that run between



STEP 16



STEP 17



STEP 18

posts at sides and centre beams. Hold cross beams against the side posts and in position marked on the centre beams and screw in place. Also fit cross beams between centre beams in line with those going to side beams. Screw on an angle to fix in place. Further break up some of the areas between the beams into smaller geometric patterns by installing more cross beams.

STEP 17 Refill the holes around posts with paving sand and make level with surrounds. Use angle

DIY TIP

When marking out for cross beams on centre beams, use a combination square to draw a plumb line where the edge of the cross beam will meet it to make sure the cross beams are plumb.

grinder fitted with a diamond blade to cut pavers to fit around posts and relay pavers.

STEP 18 Sit battens on top of sections of your pergola, here along the back and 1 side. Space the battens evenly, here around 400mm apart. Predrill and screw battens into beams, using 2 screws per batten. Where battens butt into perimeter beams, screw blocks into the beams to support the ends of the battens.

STEP 19 To create the chunky look of the pergola, fix fascia boards to the perimeter beams. To mark out



STEP 19



STEP 20

for these, first use a chalkline to mark a line down the centreline of the perimeter beams. On one side of this line, squirt generous beads of flexible exterior adhesive, such as Sikaflex.

STEP 20 Lift fascia board against side of beam so top edge meets marked line. Predrill and use 65mm screws to fix fascia board into perimeter beams. Put 65mm screws along the top edge and further down the fascia to ensure it is adequately fixed. Stagger the screws for even greater coverage. Spread more adhesive then repeat to attach a second fascia above the first. Continue fixing fascia boards around the pergola. At corners, mitre joins and use exterior PVA glue on them to hold them together.

“ Choose an attractive creeper or vine to cover your pergola for added sun protection ”



STEP 21



STEP 22



STEP 23

STEP 21 Fill screw holes on fascia and on top of battens using exterior timber filler. Let dry, sand smooth.

STEP 22 Build decorative merbau

DIY TIP

When you need to join fascia along its length, use a scarf joint instead of a butt joint as it's much stronger and less visible. Where the two pieces meet, cut ends on a 45° angle so they will sit tightly together. Use exterior PVA glue on the joint and fix adequately on either side to limit movement.

adjust the spacing as the posts help add to the chunkiness of this frame. Place in position and screw through posts into top and bottom plates of frames.

STEP 25 To give your pergola longer life, take the time to seal the top joint between the fascia and perimeter beam using Sikaflex, which is paintable. Also seal the joints at the ends of primed treated pine, such as the roof battens and painted frames. When dry, touch up paintwork with white exterior paint.



STEP 24

frames to fit between posts at one corner of pergola. Make the overall height of the screens 150mm less than the distance from the pavers to the underside of the perimeter beams. For a chunky look, use 90mm posts for the bottom plates. Increase the spacing between the studs as you go along the frame. Screw through the plates into the studs using batten screws, 150mm at the bottom and 100mm at the top.

STEP 23 Position the frames between posts and push up until the top plate meets the perimeter beams. Screw through posts into top and bottom plates using 150mm batten screws and into end studs with 100mm screws.

STEP 24 Construct painted frames out of primed treated pine for other corner of the pergola as you did for the merbau frames. Omit the end studs from this frame and slightly



ADD YOUR ACCESSORIES To bring colour and life into the centre of your entertaining zone, go for large tropical plants in pots (white of course!) The strong lines and hard edges of the concrete top fits perfectly with the Palm Springs style.