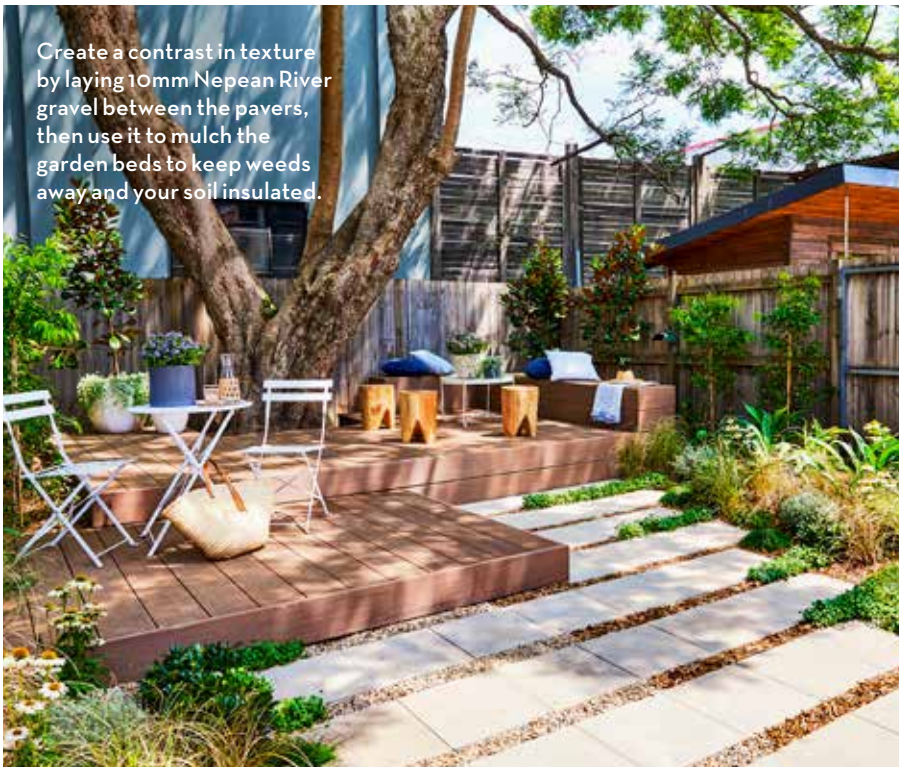


LIVE THE HIGH LIFE

UNDER A TREE



Make this classy deck and extend your home to the back of the garden

You may think having a glorious jacaranda tree and a patch of lawn in your back garden will be enough. No, you can go a few steps further and create a cool and sophisticated living space under the shade of the tree and restyle your garden with plants that thrive in the dappled light. First, take out the lawn that struggles in the shade and replace it with a series of staggered lines of pavers leading to your new outdoor living room. Then plant more trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, pretty perennials and adventurous groundcover. It will become a room you'll never want to leave!



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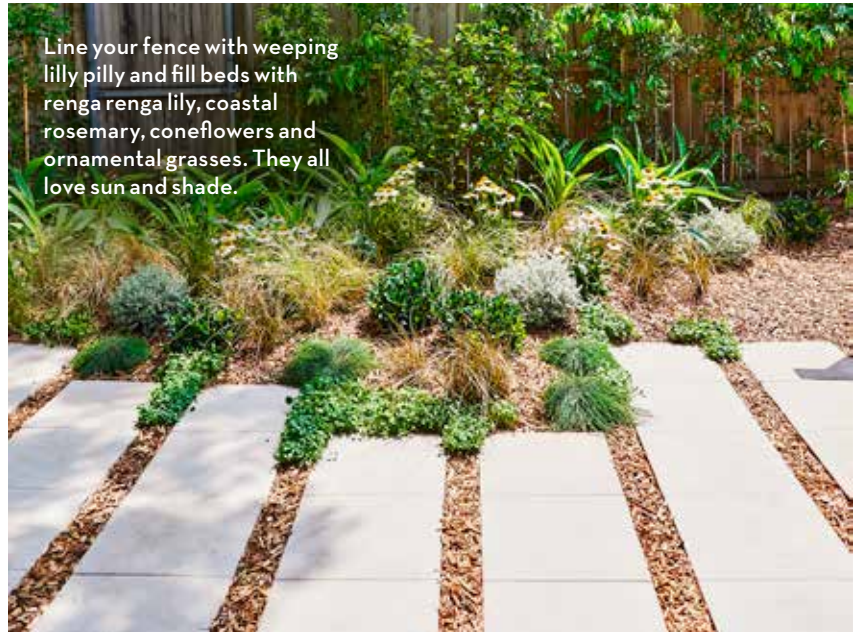
PROJECT 1 PAVED STEPPERS

Gather your supplies

- 400 x 400mm concrete pavers
- Brickie's sand
- Cement

You'll also need

Timber pegs; hammer; stringline; shovel; wheelbarrow; rubber mallet; spirit level; measuring tape



STEP 3 In a wheelbarrow, mix together brickie's sand and cement in the ratio of 4:1. Add water and continue mixing until you have a mortar mix that is reasonably stiff and will hold the weight of a paver, but doesn't take a lot of force to push it down.

STEP 4 Lay a pad of mortar on the ground where your first paver will go. Sit the paver on top and tap down to the required height using a rubber mallet. Use a spirit level to make sure the paver is level in both directions.

STEP 5 Continue spreading mortar and laying your first row of pavers. Use a spirit level to make sure pavers are all level and flush with each other. Take care that this row is in the correct position as all further rows will be measured off it. If necessary, set up a stringline along the row to help guide you.

STEP 6 Continue laying rows of pavers about 100mm apart. Measure off the last one so they look even. Use your spirit level across rows of pavers to make sure the rows are level with each other.

Here's how

STEP 1 Set out your paved steppers where you want them to go. Knock timber pegs into the ground at both ends of where the side will be and then stretch a stringline out between them.

STEP 2 If required, excavate the ground level to suit the finished height of your pavers – here it is determined by the height of the steps that lead onto them. Make the ground level to the thickness of the pavers plus 30mm for a sand and cement bed.

PROJECT 2 STEPPED DECK AND BENCH SEATS



STEP 1



STEP 3



Make a connection between the deck and the garden with a pot of cascading dichondra 'Silver Falls' on the table. It's in the same family of plants creeping along the pavers.



STEP 4



STEP 5

Gather your supplies

- 240 x 45mm H3 treated pine
- 150 x 50mm treated pine sleepers
- 90 x 45mm H3 treated pine
- 184 x 25mm Azek Vintage English Walnut composite decking, fixing screws and screw plugs

You'll also need

Combination square; pencil; framing nail gun and nails; long spirit level; 180mm joist hangers; timber connector nails; post hole digger; half stirrup post anchor; 75mm galvanised batten screws; concrete mix; wheelbarrow; shovel; crowbar; timber pegs; deck spacers; circular saw; 4mm plastic spacers

DIY TIP

Before fixing the joists, eye along the edge looking for a bow in the timber. Mark the convex side and make this the top of the joist.

Here's how

STEP 1 Construct the frame to support the main deck that goes across the yard. The 240 x 45mm timber has the depth that allows you to raise the deck above the existing level and also requires less supports across the span. Sit the frame up on blocks as you construct it.

STEP 2 Measure and mark the ends of the frame for the joists that will butt into them. Place joists at each end of the frame, then space the remaining joists so the gap between them does not exceed 400mm. Draw a line across the end where 1 side of the joist will sit, using a combination square. Place an X

on the side of the line where the joist will be.

STEP 3 Cut joists to length and butt into the ends of the frame to meet the marked lines. Nail through the end of the frames into the joist.

STEP 4 Temporarily prop under frame so it meets the required height, here 345mm above the height of the paving that meets it. Use a long spirit level to make sure the frame is level.

STEP 5 Fit joist hangers around the junction of the joists and the end of the frame. Nail through the hanger



STEP 6



STEP 9



STEP 11



STEP 7



STEP 10



STEP 8



STEP 13

into both members using at least four nails per face. Here, a compressed air powered coil nailer was used, but you can hand nail them using hardened timber connector nails.

STEP 6 Cut 240 x 45mm blocking to fit between the joists in the middle of the span to help stiffen the frame. Make the block between each joist the same length as the gap between them at the end of the frame. Prior to fixing the last block, measure the overall width of the frame, which should match the end of the frame. Adjust the size of the last block to

make sure it does.

STEP 7 In the corners of the frame, use a post hole digger to dig a 300mm diameter hole that is 300mm deep. Try to make the centre of the hole under the frame.

STEP 8 Cut a block to fit in the gap between joists in the corners of the frame. Tap in place and nail into end of the frame. Hold the post anchor against block so the leg of the anchor is near the centre of the hole. Fix in place using 75mm batten screws.

STEP 9 Prior to concreting, measure diagonals of your frame to make sure it is square and adjust if necessary. Mix concrete in a wheelbarrow with a shovel and pour into hole. Use a crowbar or rod to remove any air bubbles from the concrete. Leave to set.

STEP 10 Construct small extension frames to go on either side of the tree. Make the width of the frame so a full decking board will slightly

overhang the side of the frame near the tree. Fix into main frame and make level. Dig holes, install stirrups and concrete holes in the far corners.

STEP 11 Construct lower frame out of 150 x 50mm sleepers and sit in place so lower frame is offset to the upper frame. Make the top of the lower frame 188mm below the main frame and screw them together with 75mm batten screws.

STEP 12 Make the lower frame square and level, then hammer timber pegs into the outer corners to hold the frame in place. Screw through pegs into the frame.

STEP 13 Start laying decking on side of the deck where the bench seat will be. Start first decking board 380mm from side of deck. Screw the decking into the joists using the decking screws. Use 2 screws per joist.



STEP 14

STEP 14 Continue laying decking boards using deck spacers between them to maintain an even gap. Make sure the decking overhangs the front of the frames.

STEP 15 On the lower deck frame, lay the first board 4mm from the side of this frame. This allows for a gap on the sides of the frame that will match the gap between the boards.

STEP 16 Where decking overhangs frame, mark a line across the decking 4mm from the side of the frame. Cut along this line using a circular saw set to a 25mm cutting depth.

STEP 17 Screw decking to the sides of the lower and main deck frames that are visible and on the side of the main deck where the bench seat will be.

STEP 18 Construct frames for bench seats out of 90 x 45mm timber. Build low stud frames for each side, then join them with cross pieces between them. These timbers are what the decking will be screwed into. Make the overall height of the frame 376mm above the deck



STEP 18

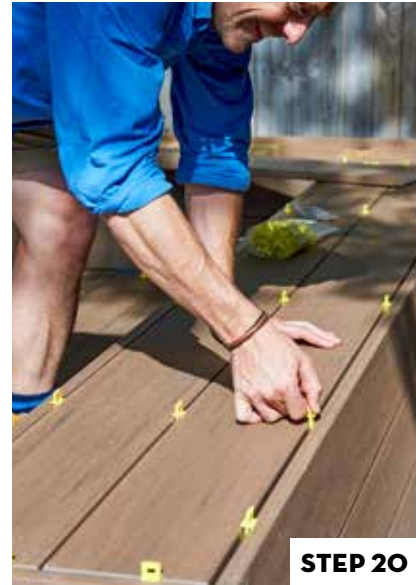


STEP 19

frame so the sides can be covered by two full boards.

STEP 19 Cut decking to fit on sides of seat frames, mitring joins in corners. Place 4mm plastic spacers between deck and sides of seat, then deck spacers between the boards. Screw decking into seat frames.

STEP 20 Cut and fit decking boards to the top of the seat. Use deck spacers to maintain a gap



STEP 20



STEP 21

between the boards and to the decking going up the sides. Screw in place.

STEP 21 Tap deck plugs into all the screw holes so they are flush with the surface of the deck.

“ It’s just an illusion, but by creating different levels in your garden, you can make it appear larger than it actually is ”

Stockists

Bunnings, bunnings.com.au

400 x 400 x 40mm Steel Concrete Paver, \$10.98 each. Yellow brickie’s sand, \$7/20kg. GP cement, \$7.50/20kg. 240 x 45mm treated pine, \$166.66/m. 90 x 45mm treated pine, \$6.14/m. 150 x 50mm treated pine sleepers, \$11.78/2.4m. 300 x 10mm half stirrup post anchor, \$10.70 each. 45 x 179mm joist hanger, \$2.83 each. 75mm galvanised batten screw, \$18/pk100. Concrete mix, \$8.50/20kg. **Timbertech, timbertech.com.au** Azek Vintage English Walnut composite decking, screws and screw plugs.

The lovely, dappled shade of the jacaranda tree creates a comfortable climate for both you and the plants that soften the hard edges of the built landscape.

A garden put in the shade

Your deck will come alive with these plants!



Create little bright spots in your garden by planting these cheeky little coneheads.



Highlight foliage contrast by mixing renga renga lily with carex 'Dusky Fountain'.

Before putting in new plants, replenish your old soil with premium soil mix and replace the soil in your pots with premium potting mix. Then sit back and watch them grow!

TREES

Weeping lilly pilli (Waterhousea floribunda)

Description: Bushy tree with weeping habit. Use as a screen or hedge.

Size: 8 x 5m.

Care: Shade, sun, any soil, water when young, can prune.

Magnolia 'Cleopatra'

Description: New release dwarf deciduous tree with brilliant red/purple flowers in late winter.

Size: 4 x 3m.

Care: Sun, shade, well-drained soil, frost tolerant once established, water when young.

Magnolia 'Teddy Bear'

Description: Dwarf

evergreen with big, fragrant, creamy white flowers in summer and autumn.

Size: 3 x 2m.

Care: Full sun, part shade, well-drained soil, frost tolerant, water when young.

SHRUBS

Coastal rosemary (Westringia 'Smokey')

Description: Tough, hardy with grey-green foliage covered with small white, pink or lilac flowers in spring.

Size: 2 x 5m.

Care: Full sun, light shade, sandy soil.

Indian hawthorn (Raphiolepis 'Oriental Pearl')

Description: Tough, hardy shrub with an abundance of showy white flowers from

autumn to late spring.

Size: 1 x 1m.

Care: Full sun, part shade, any soil.

GRASSES

Carex 'Dusky Fountain'

Description: Fine, cinnamon-coloured foliage that has a fountain effect.

Size: 60 x 60cm.

Care: Full sun, part shade, well-drained soil, drought tolerant.

Tussock grass (Poa poiformis 'Kingsdale')

Description: Strong blue, arching foliage.

Size: 45 x 45cm.

Care: Full sun, part shade, all soils, great in coastal areas, drought tolerant.

Fountain grass

(Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Nafray')

Description: Tall, fine-textured leaves with showy plums in summer and autumn.

Size: 60 x 60cm.

Care: Full sun, part shade, drought tolerant, all soils.

PERENNIALS

Coneflower (Echinacea 'Pow Wow White')

Description: Delightful, full-skirted flowers in spring to late summer.

Size: 50 x 40cm.

Care: Full sun, part shade, all soils.

Renga renga lily (Arthropodium cirratum)

Description: Hardy clumping plant with

long, strappy leaves and summer sprays of little white flowers.

Size: 90 x 90cm.

Care: Full sun, shade, well-drained soil, drought tolerant.

GROUND COVER

Casuarina glauca 'Cousin It'

Description: Striking foliage that falls or spreads like unconditioned hair.

Size: 20cm x 1.4m.

Care: Sun, light shade, well-drained soil, drought, frost and salt tolerant.

Kidney weed (Dichondra repens)

Description: Dense, creeping and kidney-shaped foliage.

Size: 5cm.

Care: Filtered sun, part shade, all soils.