

# scene from the street

## functional classic

### To get the look

Decorate with romantic urns, and plant with abundantly blooming plants like 'Iceberg' roses and hydrangeas, while keeping the underlying garden design simple, geometric and formal.

**1. Draw the eye** and create delightful tinkling sounds in a front garden with a water feature. This classic cast-iron urn and lion's head, painted white so the patina of time shows through, create a touch of shabby-chic style.

**2. Fill shady narrow beds** beside walls with easy-care *Liriope muscari*. Its spikes of violet-mauve flowers brighten up difficult dark areas.

**3,5. Use long-flowering hydrangeas** as showy tub plants for summer.

**4. Create a welcoming** entry courtyard to link a garage to the main areas of the front garden.

**6. Emphasise steps** by placing a planted urn at their entrance, and include safety lighting.

**7. Standard 'Iceberg' roses** can pick up the white of house trims.

**8. Border square garden** beds with box hedging to add architectural strength to the garden design. Keep plant selection and flower colour to a minimum to enhance the sense of formality.

Create a front yard with style and personality, which provides a unique introduction to you and your home

Your front garden creates your home's first impression, even before visitors step inside. So take a look at your own street-side scene – is your garden design unified, balanced and in harmony with the house? And most importantly, does it welcome you in? As a starting point, consider the architectural style or character of your home, and decide whether your look is rustic or formal, modern or traditional, colourful or monochromatic.

The best front-garden designs complement the style of the house and draw attention to it in the same way an attractive frame enhances a picture. So be inspired by these special front gardens, come for a wander, learn how to achieve the looks, and adapt favourite ideas to suit your own place.





Design a front garden which embraces the house

## waterwise modern

### To get the look

Go for drought-hardy plants which keep their looks and sculptural forms without the need to prune and trim. And use sleek, simple materials for hard surfaces such as concrete and stone.

**1. Olive trees are perfect matches** for waterwise gardens. They're evergreen, offer pleasant greyish-coloured foliage and tolerate everything from frosts to extreme heat.

**2. Guide visitors to the front door** in a slow meandering way so they can take time to enjoy the garden. In this instance, the path wraps informally around the house, one path leading to the front door, the other to an enclosed courtyard. It's also good feng shui practice to lay paths in a curved or zigzag pattern, as it discourages the movement of problem energy.

**3. Select structured plants**, such as palms and cycads (shown), as feature specimens

to add impact to the house entrance without introducing formality.

**4. Let the house design** inspire the garden's materials and layout. This home is a series of rectangular shapes interlocked together. The same pattern is repeated on the ground with a variety of different-sized concrete paving blocks. Interest comes from the textural mix of pebbles and low-growing grasses.

**5. Make your front yard** look bigger by dispensing with fences which limit space. A small rise in ground level is enough to define garden boundaries, and neighbours can share the visual stimulation of an interesting landscape as they walk by.

**6. Play with foliage texture**, colour and shape. Here mondo grass and flowering liriopse, planted as massed groundcover, contrast with



the more sculptural fronds of the middle-layer plantings — palms and cycads.

**7. Choose driveway plantings** that are simple but stylish. Here, a row of pleached olive trees have been underplanted with *Lomandra 'Tanika'*, a drought-tolerant, evergreen ornamental grass that only grows to about half a metre in height.



**TRY THIS**  
Instead of a high-maintenance front lawn, underplant trees with blowsy clumps of *Dianella 'Breeze'*.

and melds seamlessly with the architecture

