

The easy-care plantings allow the owners to spend their spare time entertaining guests.





above: exposed aggregate concrete paving, chosen for its durability and affordability, creates textural interest. These are combined with rills filled with crushed marble, which aid drainage. By laying the slabs horizontally across the courtyard, the stripes create an illusion of greater width.

left: the Mexican fan palm, Washingtonia robusta, adds to the garden's graphic design.

The end of the entertaining area is closed off between the first two piers to create an area for an outdoor sink and bench space for the barbecue. Translucent glass lets in light but provides privacy from neighbours.

The overall effect here strikes a happy medium between open spaces and cosy privacy. The choice of plantings adds another dimension, a personal one, that links where the family came from, and where they are now.