

The Natural Extension

Time to plan for next years outdoor pursuits and Landscape Designer Kevin Cooper highlights one of his designs for an outdoor room that created a natural extension to both home and lifestyle.

We have, with the garden or outside space, the opportunity to complete the home and lifestyle package, seamlessly merging home and garden together so that the outdoor room becomes an integral part of the home. This 'room without a roof' can provide a multitude of ways to stimulate the senses, and give one the chance to relax or entertain in this natural environment detached from the busy world we live in.

When starting to plan the outside, we need to give as much consideration to material choice, features, decoration and furniture as any other room in the house, creating a space that appeals and invites us from the house and then provides the facilities to keep us in this haven, savouring the delights of the natural room.

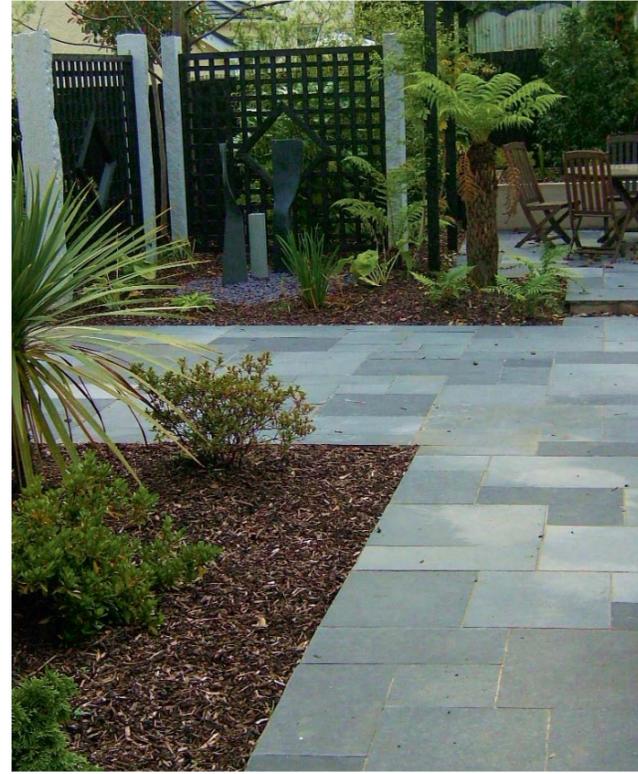
The home featured is a bold and quite contemporary new build, with a very stylish and clean lined interior with strong use of natural materials that creates a comfortable modern home with a

timeless feeling of quality. The first thing with this project was to formulate a design that would both complement the house and deliver the requirements of the owner, this was achieved by using a bold 45 degree diagonal design, which effortlessly draws one to the various features, at the same time as giving good access to just flow between interior and exterior. This design is also very useful in maximising the feeling of space in this relatively modest sized garden.

One of the key elements to any outdoor room is the choice of flooring material, for this will set the tone for the whole project, and be the deciding factor in the features and planting to work with it. A beautiful and striking black limestone paving was chosen to provide a strong contrast to the light coloured render of the house and also create a bold and contemporary feel to complement the interior of the home, reinforced by the bold layout of the design.



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Developing three dimensional structures within the space is crucial to creating the comfortable room like feel needed, to this end a simple but effective black stained Pergola feature was introduced to frame and shelter the main dining and entertaining terrace, while a bespoke granite and black timber architectural feature focused the eye on the polished marble water sculpture, which in turn fills the air with its hypnotic sounds.

No garden room would be complete without plants to soften the edges and create the relaxed and inviting feel of the space, and in this case we used mostly bold architecturally foliated plants to provide a strong contrast to the paving and features, enhancing the idea that this is another room of the home. With a meal set on the dining table and a roaring fire in the outdoor fireplace to finish it off, this project really did turn into the natural extension and I would like to thank the clients for allowing me to be involved in their home and wish them health and happiness to enjoy it! 🌿

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