



Still Waters...

Landscape Designer Kevin Cooper provides a glimpse into the many and varied ways of incorporating the magical delight of water into the garden



Where there's water there's life, and never has this been truer than in the garden, for even the most modest of feature has the ability to inject a magical character into a garden and indeed bring it to life. The hypnotic and sensual sound of moving water has the ability to transform any space into a tranquil haven where one can escape to and relax. There are an infinite amount of ways water can be incorporated into the garden, from large to small, formal to natural, and indeed contemporary. Here I highlight just a few of the gardens that have had the 'Living Heart' that is water designed into them.

For anyone who has the space, there can be nothing better than the classic lake or large pond to add that calming contrast to the garden, there is something totally relaxing and mesmerising about an expanse of still water with the ever changing reflections of all that surrounds it, and

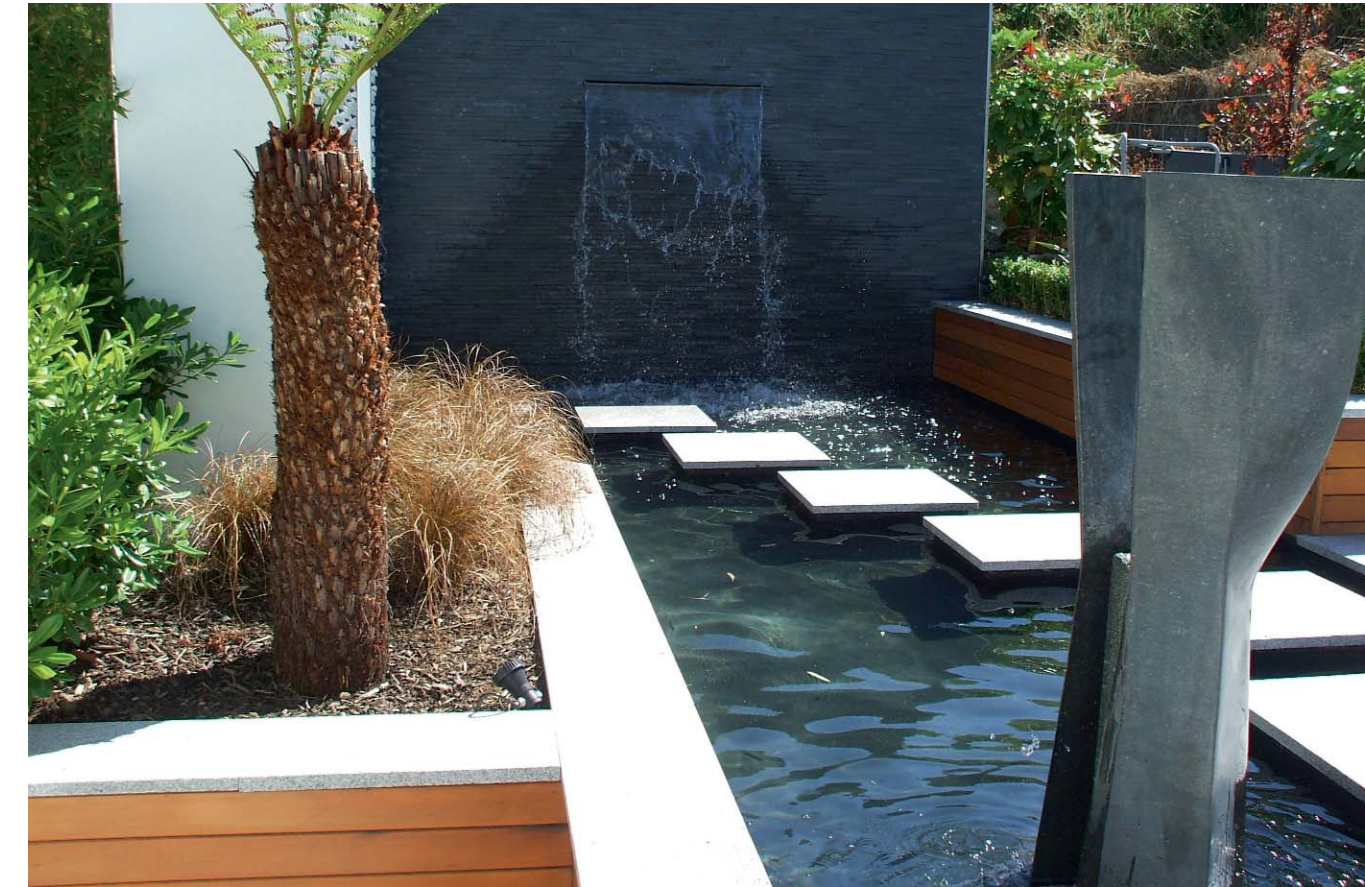
no more pleasant a time than a stroll taking in all the aspects. There are many features that can be added to a lake to add that extra dimension, from a simple jetty where one can sit and savour to the classic temple creating that traditional vista and mystery.

Traditional and period properties can be greatly enhanced and their image completed with the use of formal and architectural water features such as formal pools and ornate stone fountains and statues. These can be used to create inviting focal point interest to lead one to the front door or entrance to the home and at the same time create a welcoming atmosphere to greet all who visit. These formal features can also be used as focal points to be viewed from the house and used to tease one from the home and into the garden and the delights it holds. Of all these features the stone tiered fountain has to be the favourite, stimulating all

the senses in such a timeless and classic manor.

Water is such a flexible medium that it can equally be used in a very contemporary setting, and I have used it to great effect in this striking Water Wall garden set in County Antrim, where the water feature was the integral hub around which the garden revolved. At the heart of the feature, is the formal pool with its inviting and daring stepping stone path, linking the two halves of the garden. The polished stone sculpture erupting from the surface of the water gave the focal point interest while the dramatic waterfall magically erupting from the woven slate wall provided the drama and excitement... a modern classic.

There is the opportunity to incorporate a water feature into almost any garden, a simple boulder or rock with water gently bubbling from its centre and gently trickling over its surface can be utilised to great effect



in the smallest of spaces, creating atmosphere and magic in equally the same way. There are a myriad of off the shelf water features available to suit all styles of garden or outdoor room, many of which are available complete with reservoirs and pumps which can be used to good effect or alternatively select a bespoke design as featured. The use of lighting can greatly add to any water feature, with drops of water turning into sparkling diamonds at night!

It is said that 'still waters run deep', in the case of the garden, the depth of character and therapeutic atmosphere created by water is priceless... enjoy! 🌿

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