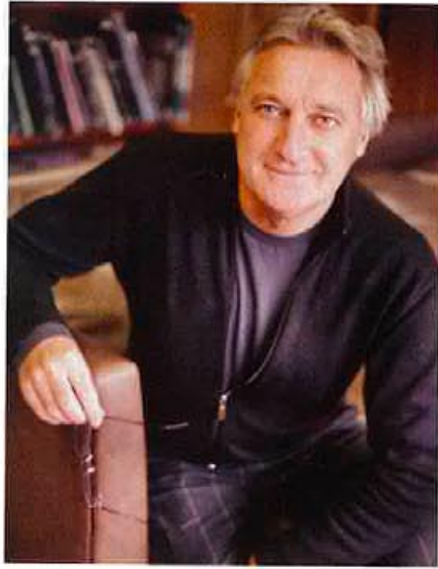


## GARDENS



'I mixed black-and-white with some sepia to marry together the organic shapes used in this smaller courtyard space.'

### Black magic

Designer: Rick Eckersley (above), Eckersley Stafford Design, Richmond, Victoria; (03) 9421 5537 or [www.eckersleystafford.com.au](http://www.eckersleystafford.com.au).

Black and white proved a winning combination in the new category of Small Gardens. Rick Eckersley's simple yet dramatic design uses materials that exude opulence. "I've created a sense of an enclosed outdoor space which is open to the sky," says Eckersley. "The luxury furniture, textiles and surfaces that are traditionally used indoors take on a new feel with a new range of exterior products that are used here."

Full-length curtains in solution-dyed acrylic flank an oversized outdoor sofa, which appears to hover above ground level. Cushions in the same fabric range complete the effect. "The use of beautiful outdoor fabrics is very big in Europe right now," says Eckersley. Beneath, bluestone paving is softened by plantings of black mondo grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens'). The sophisticated combination is contrasted by a graffiti-painted wall by artist Jay Walker. ▶



Fabrics and artwork in a mixture of patterns are offset by a simple black-and-white scheme – and the planting of 30cm-high black mondo grass. Curtains by Saker Design, (03) 9882 0227, in fabric by Unique Fabrics, (03) 9816 2000. Cushion fabric also by Unique Fabrics. Croissant sofa and bluestone paving from Eco Concepts; 1300 131 413 or [www.ecoconcepts.com.au](http://www.ecoconcepts.com.au). Artwork by Jay Walker, 0404 850 568.

GOLD MEDAL (SMALL GARDEN)