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ACCESS ALL AREAS

Tasked with creating a multipurpose space on a tight block this landscaper came up with an ingenious strategy.

Art of the louvre

A stunning wall of aluminium louvres is the star of this small rear garden in Melbourne's inner north. After adding a contemporary rear extension to their Victorian-era terrace, the owners wanted the 14x5m rear garden to reflect the new, streamlined architecture. High on their wish list was the desire for easy entry to the local park located across the back lane, and a part-time carport. Landscape designer Scott Leung from Eckersley Garden Architecture designed a 'carport pergola'

that accommodates a car and doubles as a shaded outdoor room for entertaining. But the installation of louvred panels along the back wall is his masterstroke. They work like bifold doors and can be folded right back to allow car entry or opened to take in the views. "Basically, we have extended the backyard," says Scott. "The louvres help create borrowed outlooks to the park: they can either be screened totally or partially or left fully open." **Eckersley Garden Architecture; (03) 9413 3223 or www.eg-a.com.au.**

Smart thinking...

The wall of louvres is an ingenious solution. Combining a steel frame with aluminium blades, the louvres are manually operated with lockable bolts on the inside. "This solution gives the owners flexibility, opening up the views as well as providing security," says Scott. "In this case, the owners can also open the panels right up and have a picnic on the lawn outside – lawn they don't have to maintain or mow."

DESIGN NOTE

The brick wall at left was in poor condition so Scott painted it in Dulux Terrible Billy to hide the rough surface and create a dramatic backdrop for the climbing Boston ivy.

WHY IT WORKS

The path, made from Eco Outdoor's Endicott crazy paving, steps through swathes of Lomandra 'Little Pal'. "The steppers are raised above the level of the garden to create the impression that they're floating," says Scott.

KEY PLANTS

- Lomandra 'Little Pal'*
- Miscanthus 'Eileen Quinn'*
- Kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*)
- Seaside daisies (*Erigeron karvinskiana*)
- Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)
- Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

