

## **Design Explanation Lincoln Suburban Back Garden**

### **Client Brief**

The client had recently renovated a 1930's semi detached house on the outskirts of Lincoln.

The renovation had a modern "cathedral" style dining room leading onto the garden. As part of the renovation a new garage was to be built at the end of the garden, for which vehicular access was required.

The client wanted to incorporate a patio area, a cottage garden, a vegetable garden and access to the garage. The garden and house is overlooked from neighbouring gardens, so some screening to provide privacy was required. The client was very fond of Italy and liked a mixture of contemporary and traditional styles.

### **Design Solution**

The garden is a long narrow style garden, whose narrowness would be further emphasised by the inclusion of a drive along one side. My solution was to divide the garden into three zones, entertaining, cottage flower garden and vegetable garden, and to minimise the impact of the drive by incorporating it into some of the design features. Thus the entrance to the drive is via a pergola, which will be planted with *Humulus lupulus* (golden hop) intertwined with *Clematis 'Perle D'Azur'* to give contrasting flower colour through the summer into autumn. As the driveway will not suffer heavy use it will be constructed using pierced concrete blocks through which grass can grow. Thus over the low trellis in the cottage garden it will appear to be part of the lawn.

The entertainment area consists of two broad terraces of Indian sandstone, linked via shallow steps which skirt the perimeter of the upper terrace, giving a contemporary feel. The patio will be softened by the use of evergreen plants in pots, *Sarcocolla hookeriana* var *digyna* for its winter scent and glossy leaves and a variegated *Hebe 'Lady Anne'* for low maintenance, sophisticated pots. The patio area is bounded by trellis, to provide screening from the neighbours. Honeysuckle and *Clematis 'Tetra Rose'* will be trained over the trellis to provide scented planting to soften the trellis and increase privacy.

Two broad steps lead from the patio to the cottage garden. This consists of northeast facing beds and southwest facing beds. The northeast facing beds are planted with a variety of shrubs and perennials which will cope with such a situation and will provide predominantly autumn interest. Screening is achieved through a small feature *Cotoneaster franchetii*. The southwest facing beds are planted with a plethora of traditional cottage garden plants, including delphiniums and everlasting sweet peas to provide height and lightweight screening.

Espalier trained pear and apple trees provide screening from the cottage garden to the vegetable garden, which incorporates three raised beds for vegetables and a small greenhouse.

Design fees: £550