

ELLE DECORATION



GARDENS & GREAT & SMALL

In her new book 'Green: Simple Ideas for Small Outdoor Spaces', garden designer Ula Maria takes us on a safari through small but perfectly formed oases. We've selected three case studies from the title to inspire your very own Eden

Photography **JASON INGRAM**



A TOUCH OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Landscape designer Miria Harris has craftily turned an empty patch of ground in central London into a Mediterranean-style dream. 'It's always tough when the brief from the client is a Mediterranean garden and its location is a north-facing urban space in the UK,' says Harris. 'Emphasising the contrast between light and shadow in the back yard, whether from the foliage of plants or the gaps in the fence, was designed as a playful trick to maximise the feeling of being in a sun-drenched garden, even if the sun is only there for a short time.'

Aside from the planting, dusky pink rendered walls, deep terracotta tones and vibrant furniture help to evoke a warm climate. The varying patina and imperfections of the clay give the impression of a floor that has been there longer than the rest of the space, fostering a welcoming time-worn feel. Iconic vintage planters by Swiss designer Willy Guhl inject charm and personality, while charismatic black and white tiles by Bert & May form a feature wall reminiscent of a giant abstract painting. To temper these striking materials, greenery and birch trees soften the look, providing dappled shade, movement and lightness. Finally, a built-in open-air kitchen area embraces the culture of outdoor living found in balmy climes – the perfect excuse for hosting garden parties with family and friends.



From left A rich palette of dusky pink and deep terracotta tones alongside softly swaying greenery evoke a warm, Mediterranean climate in this unsuspecting corner of central London; a feature wall made up of Bert & May tiles as well as vintage Willy Guhl planters add a dose of individuality ▶