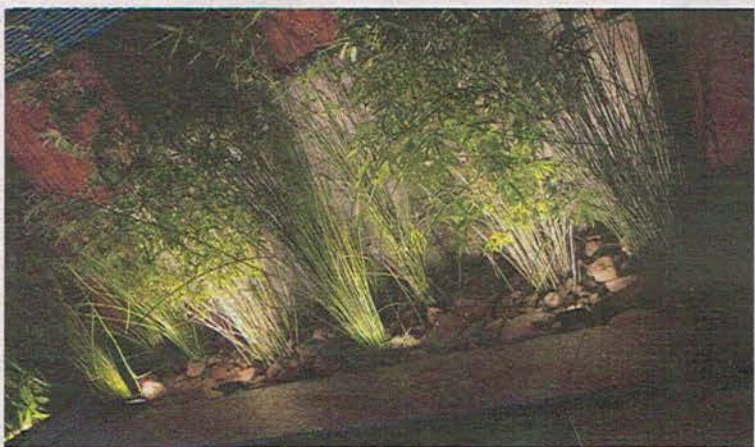




Tiered gardens make good use of the 120sqm backyard, providing dense plantings and definition around the perimeter walls.



East meets west in artistic update

■ Katie Lee

A traditional Japanese aesthetic combines with modern Australian design in this East Fremantle garden renovation, which took overgrown, uncomfortable and underused areas and turned them into welcoming outdoor rooms enjoyed day or night.

The clients, a family of three, had lived in the home for nine years before deciding to overhaul their outdoor areas, approaching Sustainable Garden Design Perth owner Andrew Beck to design and manage the transformation.

"The backyard was overgrown, did not provide any suitable spaces for entertainment and there was an

existing patio which was too hot to sit under during the summer months," Mr Beck said. "The front garden was also a desolate array of concrete pavers punctuated with a sporadic mix of plants."

"Our client requested we create a garden with a contemporary Japanese aesthetic that allowed for a number of unique sitting and outdoor living spaces throughout as well as a modern water feature to provide a tranquil point of contemplation."

A palette of Japanese-inspired reds and greens was paired with traditional Australian themes of rust and desert red.

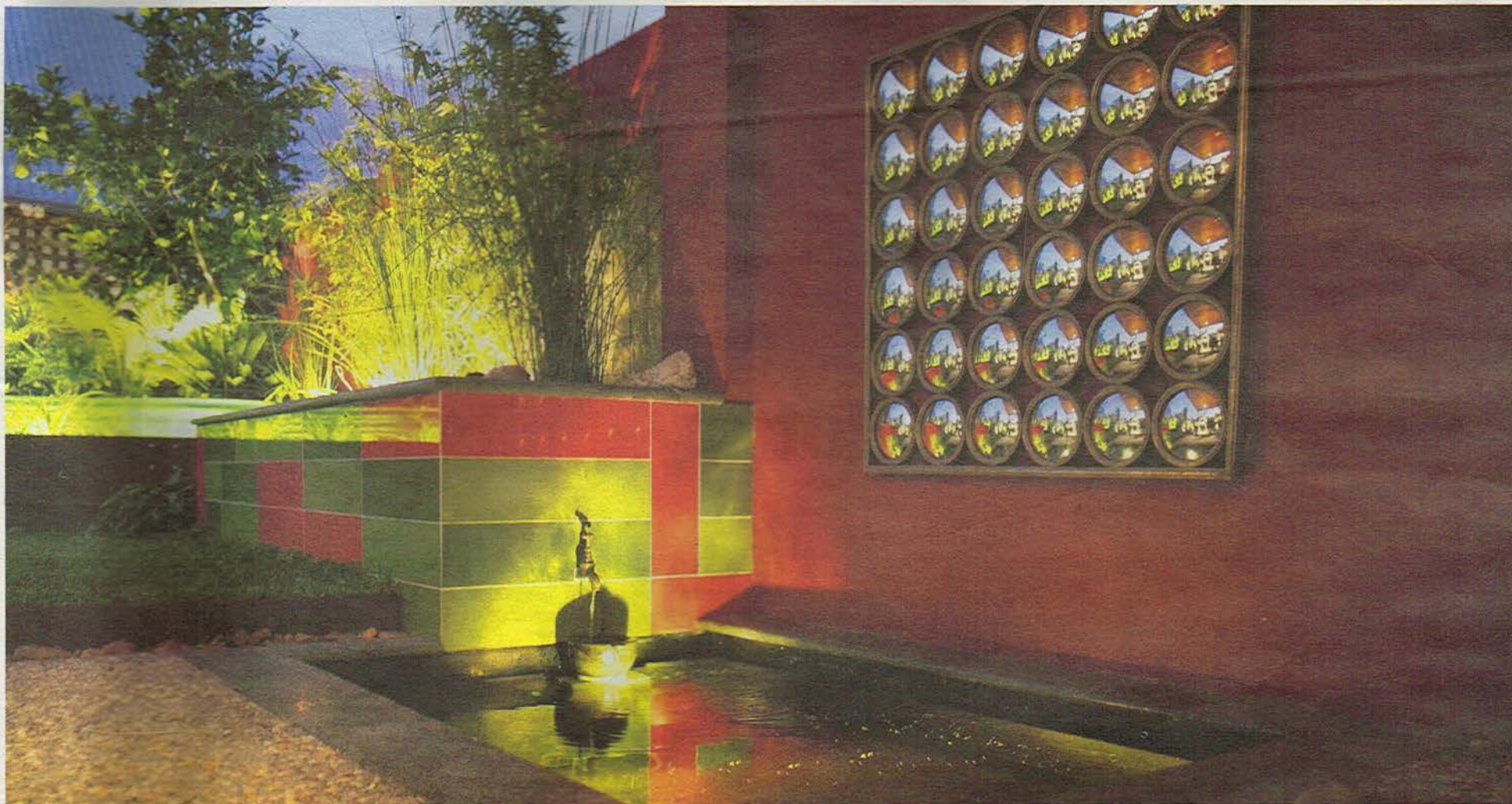
The rear patio was lined with cedar and circulating fans were installed.

"This significantly reduced the temperature in the back outdoor living area, which was uncomfortably hot preceding the renovation and had previously discouraged the clients from cooking and eating outdoors," Mr Beck said.

"The design included the extensive use of curved Corten steel raised garden beds and garden edging as well as natural West Australian pebbles to create the sense of a dry river bed."

Tiered gardens make good use of the 120sqm backyard, providing dense plantings and definition around the perimeter walls.

Red and green tiles encase a garden bed, in a nod toward the Japanese tradition of using tiles to clad exterior spaces, Mr Beck



Red and green tiles encasing a garden bed and special lighting and artwork make a stunning effect.

said. "An aquaponics system was installed to allow the waste from the koi-filled water feature to feed the bamboo garden bed and for the plants in turn to cleanse the water."

Mr Beck also designed a private front garden space bound by curved concrete seating, from which the owners could enjoy their ocean views.

"Concrete was selected for durability and beauty as it allows for a selection of different stones to be incorporated and has a minimalist clean feel," Mr Beck said.

An artist was employed to

create a unique concrete coffee table, which was craned into place, while pebble concrete paths wind around the home with stones selected by the clients.

"The existing garden beds were filled with organic vegetable mix and replanted with a selection of seasonal vegetables and herbs," Mr Beck said.

The Garden Light Company played an integral role in making the updated spaces useable at all times of the day or night.

Lighting designer Paul

Spencer was called in at the middle of the construction phase with a brief to create an area that emanated warmth and displayed all of the features of the garden.

Mr Spencer said this was achieved by "using the correct balance of lighting to complement the path, garden, and water feature and accentuating the levels of the garden at night".

The home's site, just 100m from the ocean, meant high-quality stainless-steel and brass fittings were installed to weather the coastal conditions

and to provide longevity.

"The fittings are now barely visible during the day but transform the garden into a totally different space at night," Mr Spencer said.

Owner Dafna Lambert was more than happy with the design. She said the lighting added extra drama to the outdoor spaces and was "the icing on the cake to an already amazing design".

"It is beautiful, artistic and very accessible," Ms Lambert said. "We use it for eating, relaxing, socialising and just living in general."

"Both the implementation of the garden and the lights were just seamless; the professionalism of both Andrew Beck and Paul Spencer made life very easy for us even though it was such a massive undertaking," Ms Lambert said.

"It's changed the way we live and we're extremely grateful and proud."

CONTACT Sustainable Garden Design Perth, 0405 303 824 and sustainablegardendesignperth.com; The Garden Light Company, 0413 777 800 and thegardenlightcompany.com.au