

'I love to entertain outdoors'

Beth Davies made the most of her garden, creating a relaxed, sociable space that's ideal for gatherings all year round



Seating area

'I wanted to create an outside room, opening out from the kitchen, that was easy to look after. And I was fortunate to find a great company online, Taylored Gardens, which offers both design and build services – it's a one stop shop!' says Beth.

BEFORE



FENCING FINISH
A darker shade of wood denotes the dining area at the front of the garden



Love
BETH'S STYLE?

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to shop the look



Welcome to my garden

Beth Davies lives here with her black labrador, Thomas

THE PLOT

A good-sized rectangular 15x5m plot belonging to a 1950s three-bedroom house in Strawberry Hill, Middlesex.

THE CHALLENGE

To make the existing space work harder by creating different areas for relaxing.

“I wanted the garden to be a sanctuary and a social space to entertain – extending the house out into the garden. I am delighted with the end results”

This renovation project has been a real labour of love. I'm passionate about gardening and entertaining so I couldn't wait to get going on the garden,' says Beth. 'I hadn't worked with a garden designer before but when I came across Taylored Gardens online I was really impressed with its previous projects.

'As I needed the garden completely redesigned and landscaped it made sense to go for a company which offered both design and installation. Knowing that Matt Taylor's team were taking care of everything from start to finish helped ease the pressure of the project.

'Initially Matt came round to discuss my wish list for the space and then

offered some great solutions, some of which would never have occurred to me. It made sense to keep the existing built-in seating and fencing along one side, as it was in good condition. This saved money on budget, as well as time.

'The design included existing features combined with new planting (we chose bold palms for structure) and a made-to-measure pergola. Once the plans were agreed, the garden was cleared in January of last year. Matt then took care of the landscaping, the pergola, raised beds and planting. The work took two and a half months and cost £45,000 – I can't believe it came together just before lockdown. I feel so blessed to have had such a sanctuary at such a difficult time.'



CLEVER PLANTING
Structural evergreens mean the garden looks lush all year round

Soft furnishings

'The flooring already gave the garden a monochrome feel, so it was a nice idea to carry that on with accessories, such as the striped cushions from Design Vintage. Other lovely finishing touches, like the basket, came from a local shop, Charcoal.'



CLEVER STORAGE
Concealed units to hold cushions and gardening equipment have been built into the new seating that was added at the rear of the garden



Barbecue area

'I was really lucky with the barbecue, which my lovely neighbour Sheena gave me when she moved back to Australia. It is handy to have it near the kitchen but it's also easy to manoeuvre around if necessary because the unit is so compact and on wheels.'

Pergola

'The idea of having a pergola at the back really appealed to me,' says Beth. 'It gives the seating area a secluded, encompassing feel and the garden real focus.' The pergola was made to measure by Taylored Gardens and cost around £2,500.

FEATURE AND STYLING DILLY ORME PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE LLOYD DAVIES
GARDEN DESIGNED AND INSTALLED BY THE TAYLORED GARDEN COMPANY,
TAYLOREDGARDENS.CO.UK



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“The storage in the seating has worked well. At the time I didn't think that I would need any more – but you can never have enough. Especially as I have an ever-growing cushion collection!”