



COME RAIN OR SHINE

Residential designer Anna Harrison created the ideal family-friendly outdoor living room that's big enough to host a crowd yet has intimate areas for quiet relaxation. Best of all, it can be used whatever the weather.



BRIEF

Anna's brief was to create an all-weather outdoor entertaining area for a home on a very steep block. As the space was likely to become the focal point of family life, it was given the prime north-facing aspect in the house. Its location on the northern side boundary offered the prospect of a terrific tree-filled view over the neighbourhood ... if only a few rooftops could be edited from the picture.

HOW IT WAS ACHIEVED

An irregular timber screen was designed on-site, with openings strategically located to block out portions of the view. The finished effect is one of an endless green vista – an unlikely outlook for an inner-city home on a small block! The introduction of the



hardwood timber screen also provided an opportunity to fully screen the space. The large panels of flyscreen were custom-made to sit directly behind the vertical timber posts, making them undetectable from the inside.



As an added feature, the timber screen renders the space fully secure, making it possible to leave the sliding glass doors that lead onto the outdoor room open year-round.

DECORATING

Once the room was structurally complete, the next challenge came in decorating the space. Anna's approach was to divide the large space into separate zones. This allowed a connection to be made between the children's playroom on the western side and the main living areas on the eastern. The separation of the large space into zones resulted in a collection of intimate spaces without compromising the feeling of openness and abundant space.

[above and left] Flyscreen panels – designed to sit behind vertical posts – enclose the entire space while the timber slatted screen has openings to show only the attractive parts of the view.

THE VERDICT

The outdoor room has indeed become the focal point of family life, providing a flexible venue for birthday parties, dinners, social gatherings and a game or two of fussball, irrespective of the weather.

Residential Design by Anna Harrison
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 Photography by Czesia Markiewicz