

M Y BACKYARD

(GET BACK TO NATURE)

BACKYARD
DECOR &
GROW YOUR
OWN!

Wild weather
Hardy plants
will withstand
windy balcony
conditions

Bench mark
Built-in seating
defines zones and
saves on space

Over easy
Install decking
over pavers for
a fresh look on
the balcony >

THIS MONTH AN URBAN BALCONY · BARBECUE HERBS & VEGIE PLANNER

SHOW US
YOUR YARD
& WIN a1000
see how on pg 111



MEET SAM

Sam Snaitch Sam is the head designer at Harrison's Landscaping. When he's not designing gardens he's surfing somewhere on Sydney's Northern Beaches, spending time with his family or doing DIY work on his new home.

MY BACKYARD BALCONY STYLE

URBAN SANCTUARY

A windy balcony was underused until it got a new lease of life as a tranquil outdoor space.



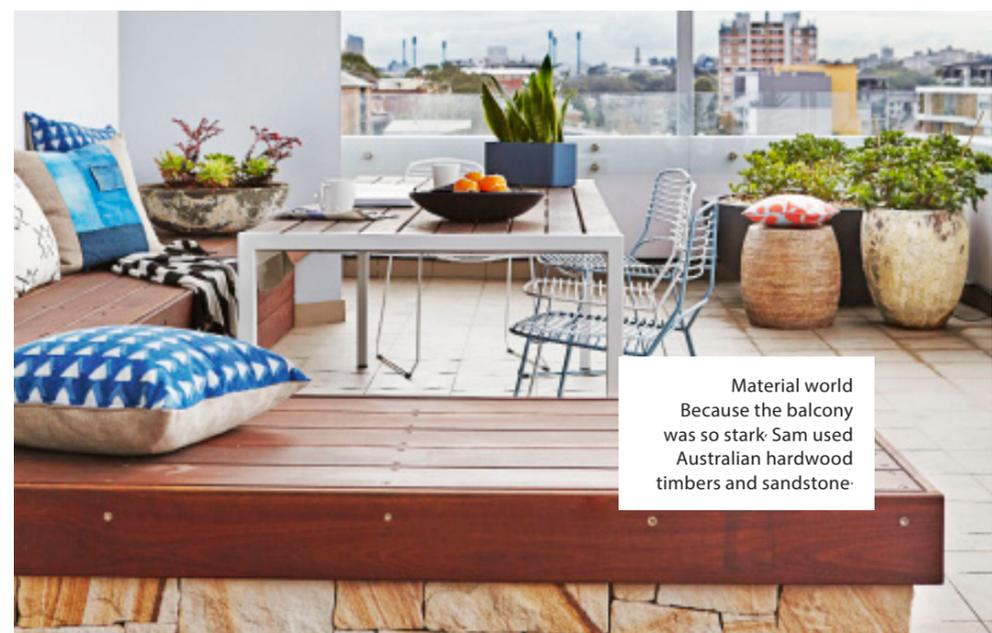
Bright outlook
The large wrap-around balcony overlooks Randwick Racecourse.

WORKING WITH A BLANK CANVAS is an enticing proposition for any landscape gardener, but when the unique challenges of working on a high-rise balcony are added to the mix, that project has less freedom than first thought.

But landscape gardener Sam Snaitch saw opportunities rather than obstacles, and set about creating a space for the residents that was user-friendly but low-maintenance. "The brief from the client was to create a lush, stylish entertaining space with both dining and lounging areas," Sam says. "The vast amounts of plain concrete and boring floor tiles had to be softened and made more inviting."

FORCE OF NATURE

The major challenge in renovating this northeast-facing balcony was the elements, a factor that determined material and plant selection.



Material world
Because the balcony was so stark, Sam used Australian hardwood timbers and sandstone.



Calm colour
Bright cushions bring in pops of colour without affecting the calm energy of the space.

"The conditions up on the balcony were often completely different to those on the ground floor – it was often windier, drier and hotter," Sam says. "For this reason we chose plants that would thrive in harsh conditions and handle a bit of neglect."

THE HIGH LIFE

The nature of the apartment block itself also created difficulties – and meant the project took almost three weeks to complete. "We had to pre-cut any lengths of timber so they would fit in the lift," Sam recalls. "We had two guys going up and down the lift carting materials for three days just to get everything up there. And like all balcony gardens, we couldn't penetrate the floors or wall due to strata conditions, so we had to come up with some creative solutions for the bench seats and decking."

SOCIAL STYLE

The clients are thrilled with their garden and it's the perfect catalyst for their favourite pastime – entertaining. The genius of this garden is in the way it seamlessly blends a sense of the urban and an inherent tranquillity. "We worked hard to create an atmosphere that enticed you outside from inside the home," says Sam. "Even though you look out towards the city, it's a very relaxing place to be."

TEXT: TRUDIE MCCONNOCHIE PHOTOGRAPHY: NATALIE HUNFALVAY STYLING: ADAM ROBINSON



MY BACKYARD

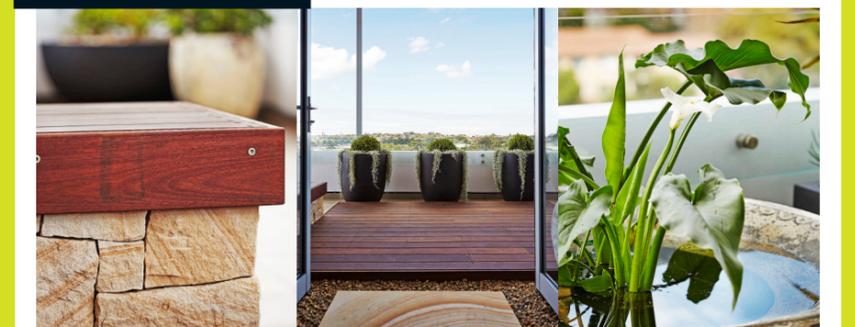
Good growing
Because of the wind factor, durable plants were favoured.



GREAT IDEA
defined zones

The entertainers
The cushions are from Design Hunter and the table and chairs are from Made By Tait.

the details



Opposites attract
Sam loves the contrast between the bench seats and the balcony itself.

Clean and simple
For balconies, Sam recommends opting for a neutral colour palette.

Water plant
This plant is called Silver Falls and the pot is from The Balcony Garden.