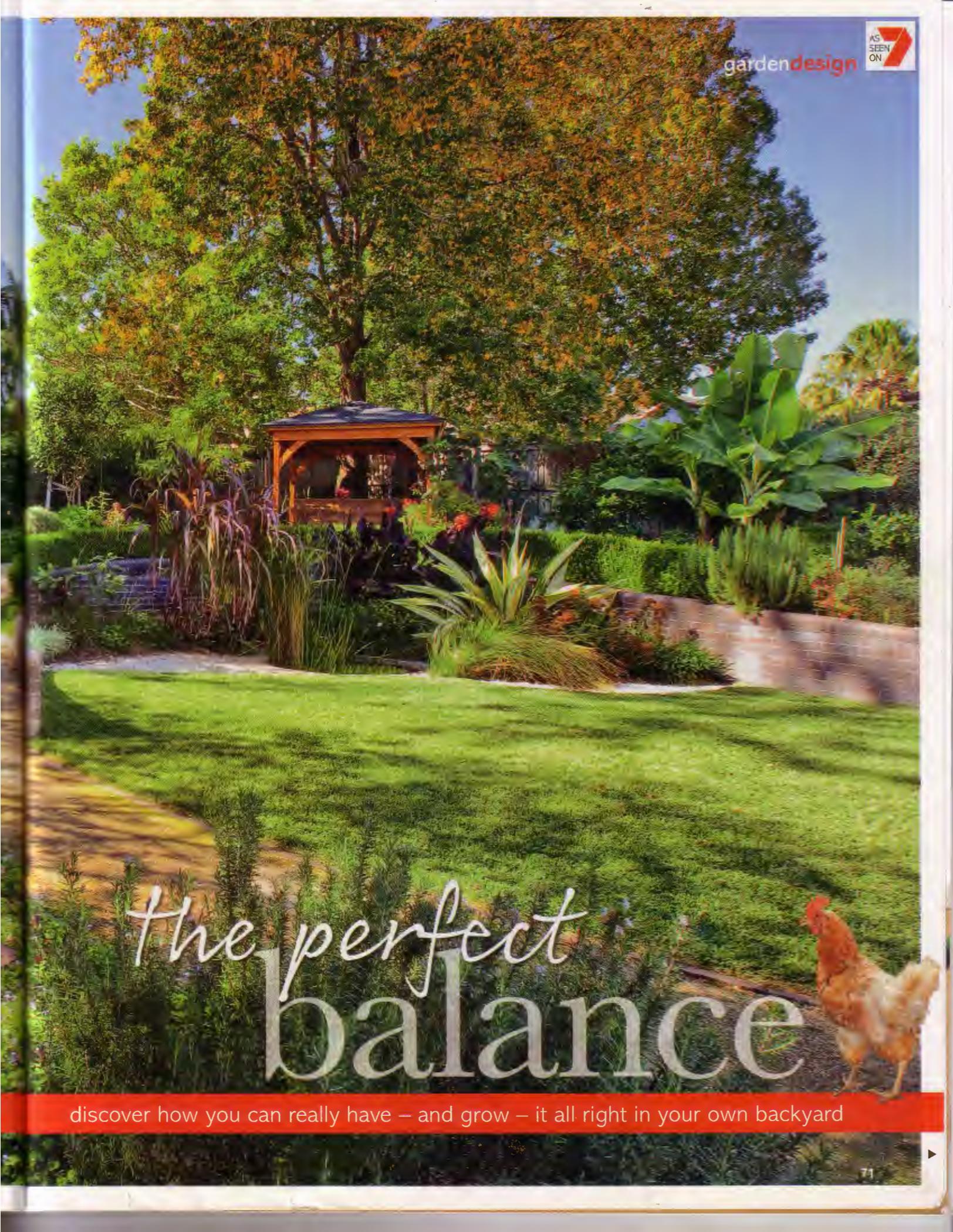


A vibrant, multi-layered garden scene. In the foreground, there are large, green, sword-shaped leaves of a plant, possibly a lily. To the left, a wooden building with a green corrugated metal roof is partially visible. A dirt path winds through the garden on the right side. The background is filled with a variety of trees and shrubs, including a large tree with yellowing leaves and a tall, thin tree. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny, with dappled light filtering through the foliage.

1. A landscape like this needs careful planning. Roughly map out your space on paper and divide it into zones – veggie patch, garden beds, lawn and outdoor living – before considering paths, walls, water features and plants.

**M**ost gardeners have a backyard that is either attractive, productive, recreational or, sometimes, just plain practical. Each serves their own purpose but can often leave their owners yearning for more. So long as you take the time to plan properly, you can actually have it all – just like this garden, which has the perfect balance of beauty, bounty and practicality. It includes growing areas for vegetables and herbs, a pond that provides a wonderful habitat for native fauna, elegant garden beds, a lush lawn, a bespoke day bed for relaxation... and even chooks! All these elements are linked beautifully by a cohesive design, creating a functional, contemporary and productive oasis. See what ideas you can borrow and bring to your place.

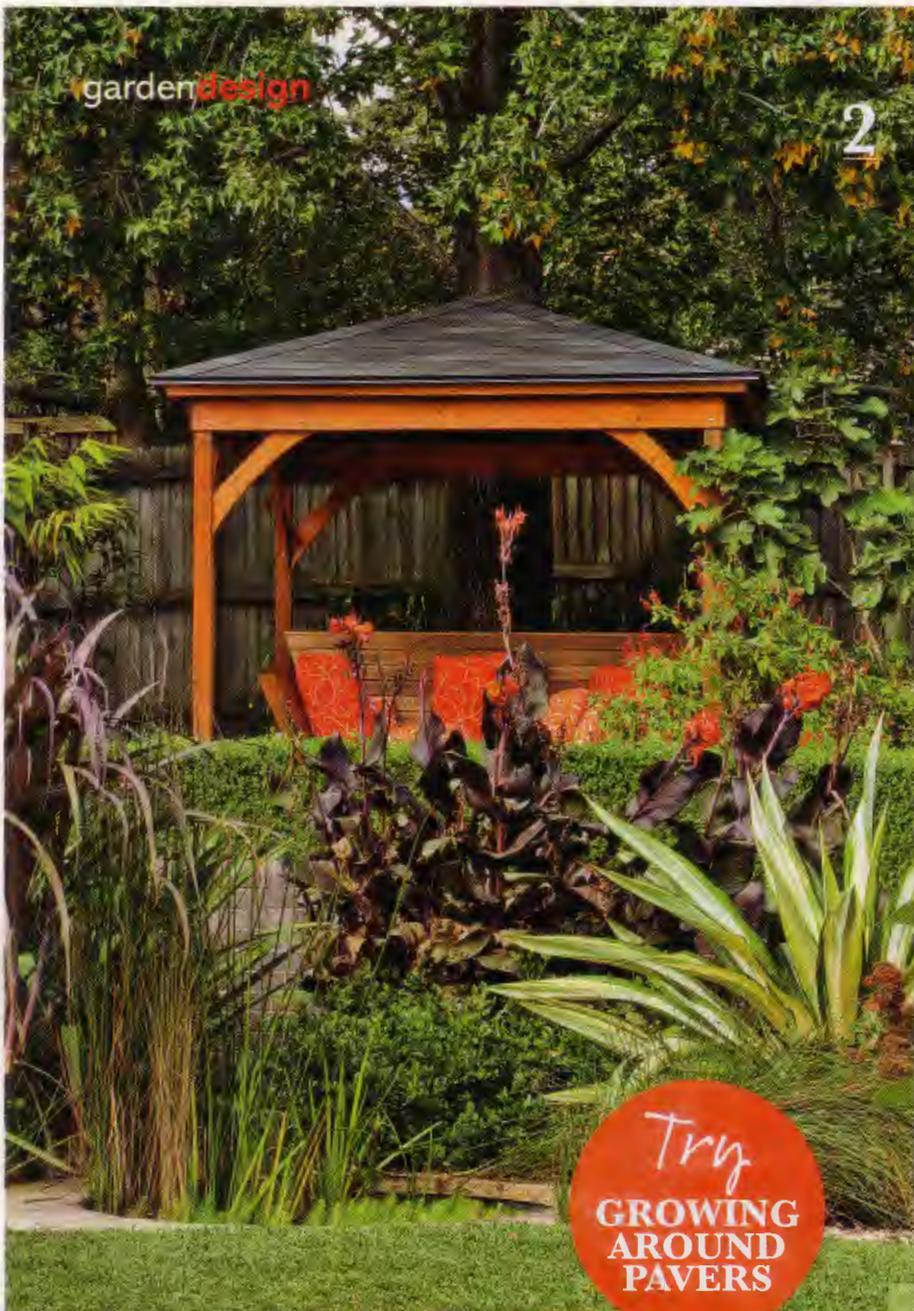
Join us on an inspirational tour of this functional yet fantastic suburban oasis and



*The perfect*  
**balance**

discover how you can really have – and grow – it all right in your own backyard

2



3



**2. This elegant, hardwood day bed** is the perfect place to relax. It's cleverly positioned towards the back of the garden, where it provides respite from the summer sun and a view of the whole landscape.

**3. To ensure year-round interest** in garden beds, try using a variety of plants with different foliage forms, textures and colours. Here, the magnificent leaves of *Alocasia* 'Black Magic' are a stand-out feature and provide a dramatic contrast against the buxus and westringia hedges.

**4. Beautiful and practical,** a standard bay tree provides height and a touch of formality to a raised herb and veggie garden.

**5. A delightful groundcover** beneath trees, native violets (*Viola hederacea*) bloom during the warmer months, but can spot-flower throughout the year.

Try  
GROWING  
AROUND  
PAVERS

4



5



### Gardener's tips

■ **Make your garden work for your needs** by choosing sun-drenched areas for lawn and productive patches, a shady spot for a quiet retreat and dappled light for ornamental plantings.

■ **Try and work existing elements** into your new design. For instance, sandstone flagging from previous pavements and retaining walls makes excellent recycled building material.

■ **Use curved or biomorphic** (resembling the shape of a living organism) lines to define paths and give shape to beds. This relaxed style adds a sense of spaciousness.

*Need to know*

**What** This gorgeous space was designed by Ecodesign in close collaboration with the owners.  
**More info** Call (02) 9680 7712 or visit [ecodesign.com.au](http://ecodesign.com.au)

*Garden plan*



**6. The landscape is centred around** a logarithmic spiral, a shape that often occurs in nature. It helps define and divide the garden into separate functional zones, but still allows each of the elements to be unified by a common theme – the basis of a good design.

**7. The handsome, strappy foliage** of purple sugar cane (*Saccharum officinarum* var. *violaceum*) makes it a wonderful

accent plant. It can grow up to 2.5m high and is perfect for planting alongside ponds or in boggy conditions as it prefers moist soils. You can even cut down, slice and chew on old canes – the juice is said to be sweet and delicious.

**8. You can create interest** in a sea of green by including plants with intriguing forms, such as the sword-like foliage of the Gynea lily and clipped westringia balls.

