

PROJECT  
DETAILS

**Project value**  
£38,700  
**Build time**  
6 weeks  
**Size of project**  
14.4m(L) x 5.3m(W)

# A seamless DESIGN

**KATERINA KANTALIS**  
GARDEN SANCTUARY,  
CLAPHAM

**H**aving purchased a Clapham property that required an extension and refurbishment, the clients were eager to revitalise the space by adding hard landscaping, texture, colour, and specific areas of interest. And with a love for design and interesting styling, they were also not afraid to make bold choices.

One key consideration for this design that garden designer Katerina Kantalis, was challenged to take on, was making a physical connection between the interior and the garden space. With tall sliding patio doors that

fully opened, the clients were keen on creating a garden that captivates from every angle, whether viewed from the kitchen, dining, or the lounge.

Creating a seamless indoor-outdoor living experience, however, isn't just about ensuring a smooth transition from the house into the garden, but is also about treating the space as an 'outdoor room' and producing a scheme and palette as if it's an interiors project. ▶

1 High springtime colour with a tapestry of greens and burgandy.

## PORTFOLIO

Kantalis started by retaining the existing Tibetan cherry tree that stood within the garden to add instant maturity to the new space.

To ensure privacy, Kantalis incorporated contemporary screening with slatted fencing of increasing height. Additionally, a rear raised bed with a row of birch trees at the garden's far end provided privacy from the neighboring property. It also created a focal point, visible from the house, as well as adding vertical interest to the garden's landscape.

For this project, the clients had also opted for exquisite materials, meaning that the budget was allocated to integrate Siberian larch slatted fencing, imparting a contemporary aesthetic, and which over time, will gracefully develop a silvery patina.

To infuse a touch of sophistication, Kantalis opted for limestone pavers arranged diagonally in a contemporary pattern, creating a visually striking contrast against the slab khaki porcelain paving on the main pathways and patio.

Employing these angled features within the design helped to detract from the conventional rectangular layout of the garden, while also creating a sense of progression from the house towards the rear of the garden.

Certain areas of the paving were crafted into triangular points, while limestone cobbles were artfully positioned to suggest a directional flow towards the garden's end. The use of statement flooring creates definition and interest in this small outdoor space.







Lighting played a pivotal role in elevating the overall ambiance too. Selecting statement lights to make a lasting impression, the lighting design focuses on warmth and subtlety, fostering a seamless connection between the kitchen and garden, transforming them into a unified space in the evening.

Instead of conventional options, Kantalis chose contemporary "art" wall lights that seamlessly integrate into the garden's design, serving as both functional and aesthetic elements.

Although Kantalis had to remove one tree in the garden, she ended up keeping the other existing tree, as well as planting an additional five trees. Despite only having a small space to work

Kantalis then established two seating areas within the garden: a cosy area perfect for enjoying morning coffee, contrasting with a more formal lounge seating area at the rear which was embraced by the birch trees and planting beds.

Within the planting beds, lay a plant selection that was carefully curated to evoke a contemporary naturalistic ambience in the garden. Inspired by the existing Tibetan cherry (*Prunus serrula*), a harmonious colour palette of burgundy, green, and white hues dictated the plant combinations throughout.

To introduce the vertical interest, Himalayan birch (*Betula utilis* subsp. *Jacquemontii*) and soft tree fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*) were incorporated.

Shrubs like *Physocarpus opulifolius* and *Hydrangea paniculata* were also chosen to add depth and seasonal appeal.

Grasses and ferns were strategically planted in the garden as companion species to complement the Acer and Betula. Additionally, Japanese anemones and agapanthus were selected for their flowers.



with, Kantalis wanted to ensure that she was adding as much as possible back into the garden.

Kantalis tried to minimise the amount of porcelain paving used, so she only utilised this for the paths, with the majority of the space ▶

- 2 View into the garden
- 3 Fern shadow play
- 4 View from the lounge into the garden
- 5 Statuesque terracotta pots creating a focal point
- 6 Statement lighting





incorporating limestone cobbles instead, as this provided better drainage) and are a natural stone.

Maximising the use of planting beds, Kantalis brought the planting beds into the garden, which allowed her to minimise the amount of hard

she was grateful that they had taken this approach.

The clients then worked with the interior designer who was given a brief to ensure the garden and interior blended as one. The results, therefore, for both the inside and outside, were seamlessly matched.



- 7 Time to sit and relax within the garden
- 8 The garden before the transformation
- 9 Limestone paving detailing
- 10 Limestone paving detailing



landscaping in the garden and ensure that plants took priority. Fortunately that there weren't many challenges to this project, apart from some material delays, the main challenges were having to go

through the house which adds extra time to a project. However, being a London situated domestic garden, this is something that Kantalis encounters on a regular basis.

One refreshing aspect that helped Kantalis was the clients' decision to prioritise the garden first and complete their house renovations afterward. Having learnt from previous projects, Kantalis says

## ABOUT

Embracing both her Australian upbringing and her Greek heritage, Kantalis' lifelong passion for gardens, nature, food, and the outdoors paved the way for a journey into garden design. Upon relocating to the UK, Kantalis retrained at The British Academy of Garden Design, leading to the establishment of her garden design studio in Crystal Palace, London. Her approach to garden design combines the interplay of subtle curves with geometric patterns, inspired by Mediterranean landscapes her designs integrate permeable materials and emphasise texture and pattern, incorporating vibrant colours. [katerinakantalis.co.uk](http://katerinakantalis.co.uk)

## REFERENCES

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