



HOME GROWN

Hugh Main, Spirit Level Designs, Sydney. "There is a move towards a more sensual garden experience," says landscape designer Hugh Main, **LEFT**. "A stimulation of all the senses – smell, taste, sound and touch – not just a garden that looks good. People want to enjoy the processes of planting, nurturing and harvesting." In a kitchen garden "reminiscent of medieval walled gardens", **BELOW**, a hedge of clipped Lilly Pilly has small openings to capture rural vistas. The formal cruciform shape provides a deliberate structure, framing an arrangement of herbs and seasonal vegetables in rotation.



CULTURAL SHIFT

JIM FOGARTY DESIGN, MELBOURNE. "IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DEVELOP OUR OWN STYLE OF AUSTRALIAN GARDENS," SAYS LANDSCAPE DESIGNER JIM FOGARTY. "NOT AUSTRALIAN NATIVE GARDENS BUT RATHER GARDENS WHICH REFLECT OUR MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY: MIXING NATIVES WITH EXOTICS [**ABOVE**] AND FOCUSING ON PLANTS AS FEATURES IN THE LANDSCAPE. COMBINING THE RIGHT PLANT PALETTE IS CRUCIAL. IT COMES FROM THE RIGHT BLEND OF FOLIAGE SHAPE, COLOUR AND TEXTURE. THE RECENT DROUGHT HAS CONFUSED GARDENERS INTO THINKING LESS PLANTS IS BEST, BUT GARDENS ARE NOT JUST AESTHETIC – THEY REDUCE AIR POLLUTANTS AND BURN UP CARBON. WE SHOULD SURROUND OURSELVES WITH TREES AND PLANTS TO CREATE A SANCTUARY WITHIN THE MODERN WORLD. GARDENS SHOULD BE A LEGACY LEFT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS."

"There is a move towards a more sensual garden experience..."



GREEN SKYLINES

Daniel Baffsky, 360 Degrees, Sydney. Rooftop gardens are an unexpected design option in a country renowned for its vast open spaces, but in the domain of high-rise apartments and urban developments, they are an increasingly welcome one. This water-wise communal garden located on top of a residential development, **LEFT**, is a case in point: drought-tolerant plants, massed native grasses, low-maintenance shrubs and trees survive well in their sky-high home. "It's not about creating an outdoor entertaining area," says landscape architect Daniel Baffsky, **ABOVE**. "The garden makes a strong ecological statement in the city." **DETAILS, LAST PAGES.**