

Turkish DELIGHT

DESIGN: MAÏTANNE HUNT PHOTOGRAPHY: JOANNA KOSSAK

Maitanne Hunt created a stylish, low-maintenance
Mediterranean-inspired city garden to remind the clients
of their homeland





PROJECT DETAILS

Total value: £59,800

Size of project: 91m²

Build time: 8 weeks

Designer: Maitanne Hunt, Maitanne Hunt Gardens & Landscapes, maitannehunt.com

Contractor: Ricky Goodwin, The Garden Builders, gardenbuilders.co.uk



The clients hail from Turkey and Greece respectively, and longed for a Mediterranean-type garden to relax and entertain in. The existing garden was laid to artificial grass, with a backdrop of overgrown ivy and oppressive evergreen shrubs and tattered *Trachycarpus* palm tree. It had an air of neglect, was underused, and brought no joy to the clients. They wanted a stylish, low maintenance garden crammed full of the trees and aromatic plants that evoked the hot, dry landscape they loved and knew so well.

They were initially taken aback at the cost of a full design and build but once they saw the team work, their ideas and how passionate and

dedicated they were, they became enthusiastic converts, meaning the budget allowance shot up from £15,000 to £60,000.

The L-shaped layout of the original garden was retained, as it had a good flow and wrapped around the house, allowing it to be seen from several angles from inside. To start with the garden needed clearing of the artificial turf, all the plants and trees – except a statuesque bay tree, which was shaped and crown-lifted and added privacy from the neighbouring property. The entire surface of the space was laid with irregularly placed pale slabs which were surrounded by pale gravel. The pale colours injected light and space into the garden, linked the garden spaces and gave an instant

Previous page: The dining terrace flanked by fragrant jasmine evokes memories of the Mediterranean
Clockwise: A bijou spot to enjoy a drink; matching your furniture and accessories to the scheme adds the perfect finishing touch

Mediterranean feeling. Within the gravel, planting pockets for cerise pink creeping thyme were created to spread and break up the pale expanse.

The homeowners' dream trees were included, adding privacy and screening unwanted views; *Magnolia grandiflora*, ornamental cherries and aromatic blue cypresses were underplanted with long flowering perennials. The existing planting beds are shaded for periods of the day, which meant that Mediterranean plants would be unlikely to thrive. This was remedied by using strategically placed terracotta

pots planted with olive and lemon trees, trailing rosemary and cotton lavender (*Santolina*) to bring the Mediterranean theme to life.

The walls near the dining area were trailed with scented star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), which is clambering enthusiastically over the newly built pergola. These are underplanted with shade-loving hellebores. A dessert grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* 'Victoria') was planted in the sunniest spot in the south-facing planting bed and went on to produce succulent sun-sweetened grapes in its first year, much to the clients' delight.

MATERIALS USED

Dining tables and benches: Bellevie range in Willow Green and Anthracite, Luxembourg Duo low chair and Luxembourg low chair (for one), Luxembourg low table all in Willow Green, Romane folding chairs in Anthracite by Fermob, fermob.com

Adjustable spike spot lighting: Hunza, hunzalighting.com

Shadow diffusion hanging lamp patio heater with remote control: Heat Outdoors, heat-outdoors.co.uk

Mini pots on shelves above the fountain: Frankie Ceramics, frankieceramics.com

Large glazed pots: The Pot Co, thepotco.com

Paving slabs: Marshalls, marshalls.co.uk

Buff gravel: CED, cedstone.co.uk

‘For a Mediterranean couple who often miss its warm climate and vegetation, Maïtanne has been the best garden designer we could ask for. She understood our love for the trees, herbs and aromatic flowers we grew up with, and found a way to create a garden that reminds us of Turkey and Greece in London. We didn’t know much about the process of garden design and Maïtanne guided us at every step. She transformed our garden to a paradise that we cannot take our eyes off.’ – *client testimonial*



Patio heating lamps were suspended from the purpose-built pergola and Fermob furniture installed in the dining area. Clusters of glazed pots, packed with herbs and flowering plants were arranged near seating and dining areas. The fence and the


pergola were painted a deep charcoal which accentuated the evergreen climbers, enhanced the lighting and made the garden boundaries disappear. Strategically placed spike lights illuminated the trees and foliage at night.

To lift the eye, window boxes crammed with tumbling *Erigeron karvinskianus* and liriopes brighten the view from the kitchen.

A palette of Mediterranean blues, white, silvery greens and terracotta were used, in both hard materials

and plants. The client later requested a small wall-mounted water feature, which could be seen and heard from inside, helping to create a tranquil environment where they can sip their early morning Turkish coffee as they gaze out onto their garden.

The front garden was also transformed by removing a wayward wisteria, repairing the existing fence and retaining wall planter, creating a discreet bin storage area complete with an easy access ramp. Roses, voluminous white *Hydrangea*

‘Annabelle’ and *Anemone* ‘September Charm’ adorn the area, alongside a beloved acer and an existing climbing rose. Scented honeysuckle frames the entrance. 

Main image: The design means the whole of the garden can be enjoyed from different angles