

ALL WHITE ON THE WALLS

MIX MATERIALS

Reclaimed bricks, squares of flint and terracotta ridge tiles add glorious colour and texture

SEATING

A metalwork bench gives the formal garden a Victorian-style finish

MODERN PLANTING

Contrast white blooms with architectural agaves for a striking look

SCENTS

Fill the space with beautiful, fragrant blooms such as camomile, which smells like apples

MIX SNOWY BLOOMS & ROSY PAVING TO BEAT THE DROUGHT WITH STYLE

Pictures: JEREMY DURKIN/GARDEN WORLD IMAGES; CLIVE NICHOLS, GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

BLISTERING sun and hosepipe bans have played havoc with the country's lawns – turning lush greens into grass graveyards. One way to avoid the charred look is a courtyard garden.

Garden designer Jeffrey Hewitt used traditional materials such as Tudor bricks and flint in a chequer-board effect to create this formal Victorian-style space.

Add the sound of water and the sight and scent of white flowers to create an area teeming with life...

UP THE GARDEN PATH

RECLAIMED paving bricks are laid in a herringbone pattern and form the central path down which runs a drainage channel. This leads the eye to the centrepiece of the garden – a flint alcove containing a water basin and fountain. The water runs from the basin to the bottom of the channel and is recycled back up to the basin.

CREATE THE LOOK When laying the bricks make sure the foundations are solid so there is no movement. Lay one brick at a time, buttering them with a dab of mortar (5:1 sharp sand/cement) and securely stamp into place.

HOW MUCH? Reclaimed bricks are available from around £1 each from Anglia Building Suppliers Ltd (01245 467505).

HAVE A WALL

THE inspired side walls are made from reclaimed terracotta ridge tiles and have been clothed with climbers, which cleverly pull your eye towards them. The wall has texture, shadow and depth, and is ideal for a rural setting.

CREATE THE LOOK Cut terracotta ridge roof tiles in half using an angle grinder. Adequate foundations are a must and the depth will vary according to the wall's height and soil type. Tiles must be laid so that the finished wall is upright and level, with corners square and curves smooth.

HOW MUCH? Terracotta ridge tiles are available from architectural salvage yards for about £6 each.

ON THE BENCH

TO sit and soak up the scents and sounds of the garden Jeffrey chose a wirework bench to reflect the Victorian-style theme. An antique, white-painted metal table mirrors the seat and provides a display stand for dainty potted plants such as Gaura Whirling Butterflies and scented variegated thyme.

CREATE THE LOOK: Traditional-style metal furniture looks good but bear in mind that it's not always comfortable to sit in for long periods of time. It also needs to be painted regularly to prevent rust spots, although plastic-coated metal will avoid this problem.

HOW MUCH? Victorian-style cast aluminium and wirework benches cost around £200 from garden centres.

HEAVEN-SCENT FLOWERS

SOFTEN walls with the rambling rose Sanders White and scented Star Jasmine. Jeffrey uses white flowers as they are crisp, classy and timeless. In the borders, he planted purple, blue-grey and silver foliage for movement.

CREATE THE LOOK Plant climbers on the wall at least 15in (38cm) away from the base to avoid moisture being sucked from roots by the wall's foundations. Use the flowers below to add soothing colour and scent to the garden...



Annabelle

Annabelle is a stunning white hydrangea often producing heads over 10in (25cm) in diameter. It costs round £9.99.



Star Jasmine

Star Jasmine is an energetic evergreen, with fragrant pinwheel flowers, which will cling to walls. Around £9.99.



Gaura Whirling Butterflies

Gaura Whirling Butterflies grows well in pots. Priced £3.25 from Beeches Nursery (01799 584 362).

CHEQUER THIS OUT

THE chequerboard effect is made with squares of flint, moss-like helxine and scented, ground-hugging camomile. The "chess pieces" are giant blue-grey leaved agaves, which give the garden a modern, architectural quality.

CREATE THE LOOK Prepare the soil well before planting, mixing in plenty of well-rotted organic matter such as home-made compost and fertiliser. Adding a handful of water-retaining gel to the backfill at this time of year will also help support the plants through drought conditions while they establish.

HOW MUCH? Knapped flint is available from CED (01708 867 237, www.ced.ltd.uk) starting from £50 per sq metre plus delivery.