The Character House Garden

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Ipswich City Council • Heritage Week Seminar
The Character House Garden

- Understanding the historical or earlier garden.

- The appropriate character garden.

- When to follow the heritage direction.

- Renewing the traditional or character garden.

- Examples.
understanding the historical or earlier garden
garden types
The cottage garden

The above drawing is from ‘Cottage Gardens in Australia’
A simple, cottage front garden

Waiting for a garden

A little too much garden
The large urban residence garden
The suburban garden

This plan drawing is from ‘Parks Gardens and Special Trees’ by Juliet Ramsay for the Australian Heritage Commission AGPS, 1991.
understanding the historical or earlier garden style
Squared Gardens
Gardens of squared areas.
- cultivation of crops and vegetables, - flower picking.
Style continues in nurseries and market gardens.

Geometric
In most Australian gardens.
- Hedged beds, gravel, brick or stone paths with brick or stone sided drains.
- Fences of stone and picket.
- Late 19th century: paths, fences, & gates follow current trends.
- Gardenesque planting of feature plants: aloes, yuccas, palms introduced.
Arcadian influence
Influenced by English landscape garden style, - scenes of pastoral and parkland harmony.
- Native trees, large eucalyptus valued.
- Gardens had simple curved spatial outlines with shrubberies, avenue planting, and carriage turning circle.

Picturesque
A combination of wild natural landscape with exaggerated architecture of elements: dovecotes, rustic bridges, and feature planting: pines, bamboos.
Gardenesque

Lawns, shrubberies, flower borders, carpet bedding.

- Beds and lawns are geometric, with neat curving paths.
- Ornaments and plant features for accent.

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Paradise
Richness of form, texture, and colour by the use of subtropical & tropical plants with palms, in contrast to the natural environment.
Federation
Garden suburbs. - Large lawn areas, bush houses, variety of plant material, fences painted timber.

3 sub styles:
2) Informal or Natural: - sense of enclosure but flowing of spaces into each other, curved paths, sweeping lawns
3) Mixed style: - garden rooms, buffalo grass lawns, S shaped main path, specimen trees, planting close to the house.

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Edwardian
Garden style extended beyond the historic era.

- Geometric lay out with compartmentalized spaces.
- Water features, lily ponds.
- Shade houses, garden furniture, flagged paths.
- Informally planted beds.
- Around early 20th century revival or Arts & crafts houses.

This plan drawing is from ‘Parks Gardens and Special Trees’ by Juliet Ramsay for the Australian Heritage Commission AGPS, 1991.
Bungalow - 1920s

Associated with Californian bungalow architecture.

- Native trees retained and planted.
- Paths stone flagged.
- *Hydrangeas* and *Rhododendrons* remained.
- Wire fences & pipe gate, - brick walls to match house.
- White trunked and red flowering gums.
City beautiful - art deco
- Groups of trees in sweeping lawns.
- Formal arrangements.

Inter-war domestic
Evolved from the Federation and Edwardian.
- Hedges disappeared & front gardens designed for display of the house.
- Simple neat front garden, rear utilitarian.
understanding the historical or earlier garden
the garden’s historical form or structure
Understanding your garden historical form or structure

The front garden
- Setback from the street.
- Width of garden.

Drive & garage location
- Along side of house.
- From the side.

Orientation or aspect
Historical form or structure
garden planning

The rear garden
- relationship with the house
Character streetscape
Inappropriate planting to be removed

Fence appropriate but requires shrubbery or hedge behind

Remnant garden edges - a wide, side frontage garden space

A mango tree and frangipani to retain
The front garden
- Presentation to the street.
- Welcoming character.
- Decorative elements or plants.
The front fence
An inappropriate fence

The front fence

- Materials and colour.
- Height in relation to verandah and house.
- The gates.
case studies
The front garden

The side garden
Beaufort Hill
Rear garden
The small piazza
Highgate Hill