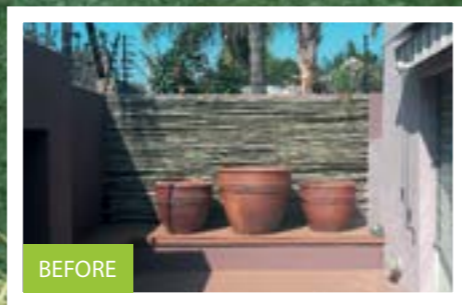




STAR performers

Creative director David Bloch's container garden is a reflection of the man himself – chic and stylish



BEFORE

TEXT: LYNNE VATES PHOTOGRAPHS: LOREN SHIRLEY-CARR



WHO LIVES HERE

Creative director and show producer David Bloch of David Bloch International.

THE GARDEN

A low-maintenance, lock-up-and-go property in Norwood, Jo'burg, with abundant containers.

“Every picture should tell a story,” declares David Bloch, a creative director and show producer. David’s job, conceptualising and creating live entertainment content, requires both imagination and artistic skill. So, when he bought his Norwood home 10 years ago, he used these skills to transform the bland outdoor area.

“As the tiles were dull and the swimming pool fenced in, the garden felt very cramped,” recalls David. “The first thing I did after repainting the house in a neutral colour was to put mirrors up on the boundary wall. These made the garden appear lighter, and the reflection of the house gives the illusion of a larger space.”

Next, David laid down AstroTurf and installed composite decking around the pool. These were chosen with minimum maintenance in mind, because he travels

frequently and wanted to be able to lock up and go. Next, he clad sections of the boundary walls with the latte he had left over from his previous home in Parkhurst. “I’m a great fan of texture and these were the perfect way to introduce it,” he says.

Although the result was a soothing blend of neutral colours and textures, David knew that the garden needed some colour to give it impact. “When it comes to design, whether on the stage or at home, I’m confident doing ▷



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THIS SPREAD, LEFT TO RIGHT: ● AstroTurf and composite decking form a low-maintenance setting for a variety of plant-filled containers. ● Coleus varieties, *Plectranthus* 'Mona Lavender', *P. ciliatus* 'Gold' and *Euphorbia* 'Kilimanjaro' make a beautiful combination underneath a standard azalea. Latte were attached to the wall to add character.



what I do best, but when it came to my garden, I knew I needed help.” Enter Karen Gardelli of Creative Containers, a garden designer and specialist in plant containers.

“I met Karen through a friend, Stephen Graham, while she was designing his garden, and I loved what she’d done with it. All I knew was that I wanted colour; after that, I had no idea, but I trusted her completely,” says David.

Karen immediately came up with the idea of a container garden. “David loves his low-maintenance home, but once he decided to add plants, we both knew that it was going to require more TLC,” says Karen.

“Luckily Karen lives nearby, so between us, we are able to keep the

containers looking their best all year round,” says David.

They positioned the pots where each one tells a story. For example, a trio outside the front door makes a warm, welcoming statement, while David’s favourites are those outside his bedroom. “The containers are like my industry – no day is ever the same; sometimes there’s more green, sometimes new flowers appear.”

And the plants vying for attention include standard *Ficus benjamina* and magenta azaleas surrounded by combinations of *Plectranthus* ‘Sasha’ and one of David’s favourites, *Plectranthus* ‘Mona Lavender’. Others are coleus, *Schefflera* ‘Variegata’, hibiscus, *Plectranthus ciliatus* ‘Gold’, microlepis ferns, dahlias, orange New

Guinea impatiens, anthuriums and *Lotus berthelotii*.

David is a fan of palm trees, and fortunately, there was an existing one in the garden to provide a tropical feel to the plantings.

When David is home, he spends as much time in the garden as he can. “Enjoying each aspect, while watering the containers is very therapeutic,” says David. 🌿

ABOVE: A mirror on the far wall visually doubles the garden. Selectively positioned large containers planted with a variety of colourful plants form the basis of this low-maintenance garden.

SOURCES Creative Containers
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