

WHAT'S YOUR GARDEN STYLE?

Our series explores four modern looks for your garden. Here we suggest clever design, plant and accessory ideas to **GO GLOBAL**



GLOBAL



URBAN CHIC



PLANT THE LOOK
Big, bold leaves and adventurous planting in raised beds create this lush-looking garden

Clump-forming bamboo

Agapanthus

Daylily

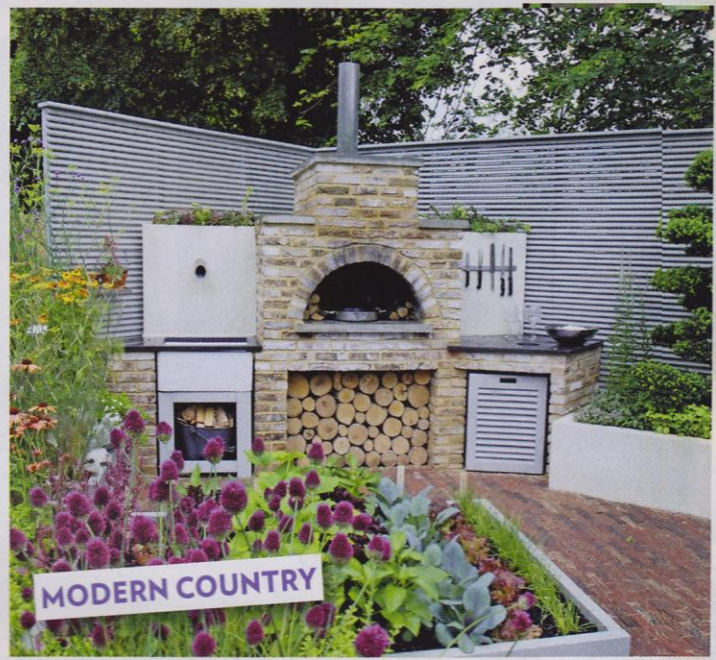
Tree fern

Banana plant

PHOTO: ANTONIA SCHOFIELD GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING WWW.ANTONIASCHOFIELD.COM



COOL & CLASSIC



MODERN COUNTRY

Our personalities are reflected in the way we decorate the interior of our houses. And it's just the same in our outside space. You may appreciate minimal style, with a limited colour palette and no clutter. Or perhaps you love an exuberant burst of colour in your flowerbeds, teamed with lots of accessories. Whatever you plant and how you choose to display it adds up to creating a design and look that makes you feel at home in your space, a place to relax and share with friends. If you love long, hot days and late nights under the

stars you'll love the glorious mash-up that is global garden style. It's an eclectic look with sharp shots of vivid colour, bold plants with big leaves, natural materials and dark-toned wood with accents of glimmering copper and glowing bronze.

The plan
A global garden is perfect for smaller spaces. Lush planting in raised beds against walls or fences, colourful accessories in zingy brights and natural materials makes the most of a tiny garden. A wall of plants in different shapes and sizes is a

wonderful way to create privacy even in a space that is overlooked by neighbours and will absorb traffic noise from nearby roads creating a peaceful sanctuary in a busy spot. This style calls for a palette of natural materials. Choose simple stone slabs for paving. MKM Building Supplies (www.mkmb.co.uk) offers precision cut sandstone paving, £133.05 for a 10m square pack. 'Avant-Garde Colossus' is a soft grey with a smooth finish. B&Q 'Wethervale' (£170 for a 5m square area) is



GARDEN ROOM Simple, furniture doesn't compete with the exotic plants, and both can be enjoyed year-round.



SHED SOME LIGHT

Brass effect hurricane lanterns **£25**, bamboo lanterns from **£40**, filigree candle holders from **£60** www.johnlewis.com



PHOTO (ABOVE): ANTONIASCHOFIELD.COM

also pale grey but it has an appealing textured finish. Natural paving in a pale colour won't compete with your plants and it allows you to inject your personality by adding bright accessories. It also makes a great backdrop that lets the other features shine. Easy-care raised beds are the best way to create green walls full of tropical-style plants. They lift plants up higher so they tower above your head, creating a leafy canopy. Rendered, and with a lick of dark grey paint, the low retaining walls will disappear into the background. Choose a colour a few shades darker than your paving slabs in a complementary tone. We like Sandtex masonry paint in 'Gravel Grey' (£5.80 for 5l) from B&Q.

The plants typically used in a global-style garden need a little extra care. Plants like tree ferns, cannas and banana plants can't survive a cold, wet UK winter without being wrapped in fleece. But, you can easily create a tropical look using frost-hardy plants that will happily weather the winter cold. Choose plants with big leaves in striking architectural shapes and bright colour-pop flowers. Place them cheek-by-jowl without big gaps in between to create a lush, layered look. Using hardy plants and packing them in closely together makes looking after your garden easy. There's less room for weeds to pop up between the plants you've chosen and because they are growing in a restricted space they grow more slowly. You won't

5 tropical style ideas to steal

- * Mix all sorts of shapes and sizes, including plants with leaves as big as paddles, round like dinner plates or with long fronds
- * Choose feathery bamboo fringing fences to absorb traffic noise and create a living screen
- * Use rich colours
- * Create a living canopy or wall of foliage and flowers
- * Pack plants together to echo the density of wild planting.

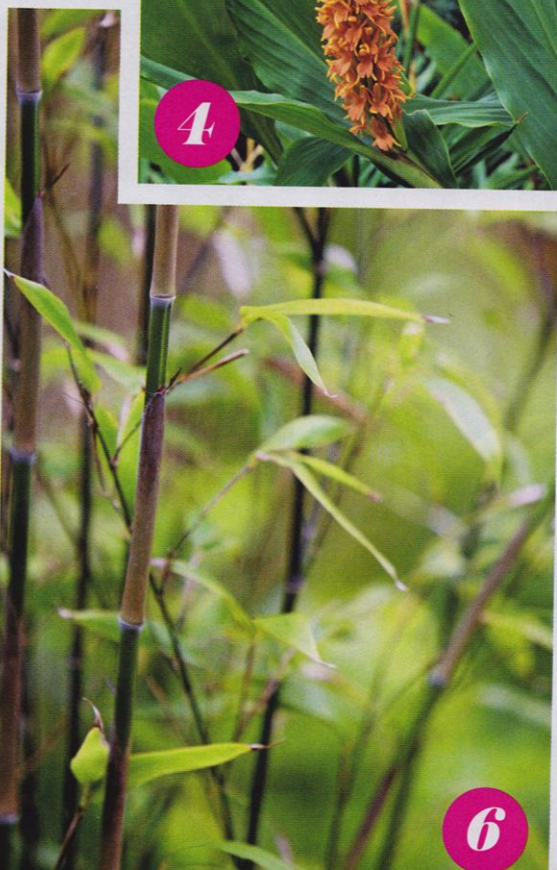
need to divide them, move them or cut them back. Planting in raised bed is like planting in a large pot so you will need to water your plants regularly, especially during hot weather. How often and how much depends on the depth of your soil, the plants you have chosen and the weather. If you're not sure whether to water, push your hand into the soil to see if it's damp at a finger's depth. If not, you should add more. Plants with bigger leaves generally need more water than smaller-leaved varieties.

Our global plant edit

Bold plants with big leaves in rich colours are key to global style. Use taller and shorter plants with strappy foliage in shades of green or big waxy leaves in layers to create an array of different shapes. Look for flowers that are bold and bright and which have saturated colours – brilliant red, zingy orange or

deep purple-blues. They'll shine out among the foliage and catch the light and your attention on sunny days. A global garden is the perfect place to mix and match lots of different plants that you love for their eclectic wild style.

We LOVE this!



1 MONTBRETIA

Crocsmia 'Lucifer' is the common name for this beauty, with its strappy foliage and brilliant red flowers hanging on arching stems. This is a brilliant plant for adding height as the flower stems stretch up over a metre but don't take up much space in the soil. **Height** 1m (3ft 3in) **Spread** 0.8m (2ft 8in) **£5.99** www.crocus.com

2 AFRICAN LILY

Agapanthus africanus dazzles with big globes of blue flowers on long straight stems. Smaller varieties, which grow up to about 60cm (2ft) are brilliant in a pot. **Height** 0.6m (2ft) **Spread** 0.45m (18in) **£9.99** www.thompson-morgan.com

3 JAPANESE ARALIA

A tropical-looking shrub with big, waxy palm-shaped leaves, *Fatsia japonica* will survive cold temperatures. It's evergreen so it looks good all year round which is even more important in a smaller garden. **Height and Spread** 4m (13ft 1in). **£14.99** www.thompson-morgan.com

4 GINGER LILY

Also known as *Hedychium densiflorum* this lily throws up spikes of tall and fragrant orange flowers. Best in a sheltered spot or in a pot to move into the porch in winter. **Height** 1m (3ft 3in) **Spread** 0.6m (2ft) **£9.99** www.vanmeuwen.com

5 CHUSAN PALM

Trachycarpus fortunei holds bright green fans of pointed leaves at the top of a fibrous trunk. It adds sheight and structure, and doesn't need winter protection. **Height** 4m (13ft 1in) **Spread** 2m (6ft 7in) **£12** www.hayloft-plants.co.uk

6 BLACK BAMBOO

With polished black canes and long thin leaves, this bamboo won't take over your garden. Try planting three for an instant green wall, that will create privacy and absorb city noise. **Height** 5m (16ft 4in) **Spread** 3m (9ft 10in) **£15.99** www.crocus.com