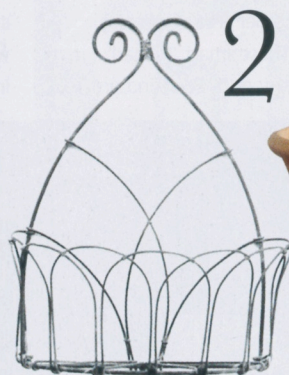




1 The rectilinear shapes and clean lines of this garden by Philip Nixon give it an impact that belies its modest size.



2 Wall pots are a useful way to add interest to a small garden. Pictured, from left, are 'No. 16 Small Wall Basket', 31cm tall, £18, at RaymentWire; and 'Armstrong Wallpot', 22.9cm tall, £38.50, at Whichford Pottery.



SARA JANE ROTHWELL, garden designer

- Do not use too many large-leaved plants, shrubs or trees, as they will make the space seem smaller.
- Use a single focal point, such as a piece of sculpture or a small tree, to draw the eye.
- Tall, narrow shapes will increase the sense of space.
- Low retaining walls double as seats and lift plants off the ground so they don't encroach on the paving.



3 'The owners of this London garden have a young family, and were keen for it to be elegant and modern, but still fun for the children,' says Sara Jane Rothwell. 'I created two distinct areas: a lawn, and a raised, hardwood deck. The lawn has L-shape beds framing a green metal bench, which is set opposite a beautiful plum tree underplanted with *Tellima grandiflora* and seasonal bulbs. It is separated from the deck, which has a cantilevered, timber seat surrounding a coffee table, by two low walls planted with herbs. The garden faces north, so I used light colours - cream and soft purple - for the boundary and rear focal walls, which I echoed in the planting.'