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The Urban Room

Adriana Mot Tuesday, June 21, 2011



Interior Designer & Decorator Adriana Mot takes RENO & decor on a tour of her latest projects in this special Design & Decor online exclusive.

The Urban Room

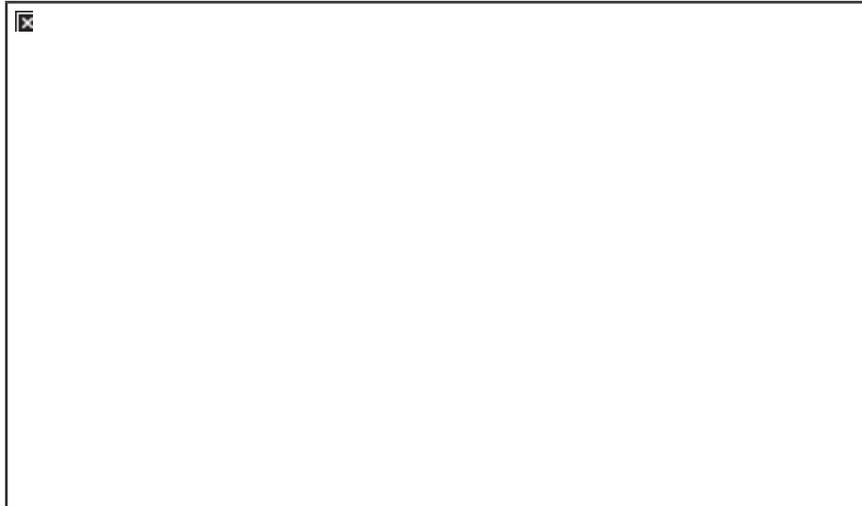
In this narrow and long Lawrence park back yard, the multilayered design transformed a gloomy backyard into a gem of a garden. We all know how precious space can be in Toronto, but in a town where home entertainment is an ongoing activity, that just does not cut it anymore.

There were some clear design challenges to address:

- First, the length and the narrowness of the yard did not lend itself to an immediate relationship to the house especially since as you come out from the family room at the back one would have to come down 6 steps to reach the yard level.
- The old deck seemed to provide an elevated surface for an outdoor eating area but the size of it did not actually allow it.
- The nice tree in the yard was somewhat to the side, not offering shade.
- Views were everywhere, towards the neighbours, the driveway, nothing was private.

Solution:

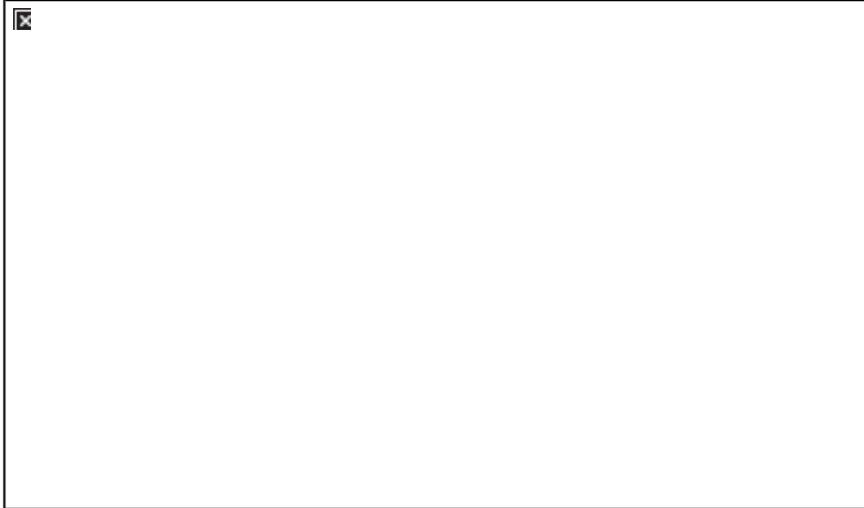
Our design addressed issues of privacy, functionality, access, beauty and proportion.



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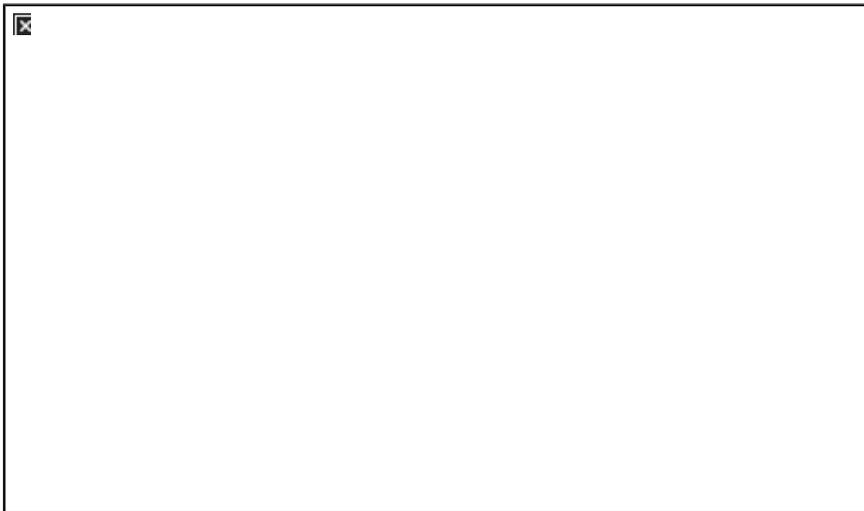
The yard was split into three zones at 3 different height levels:

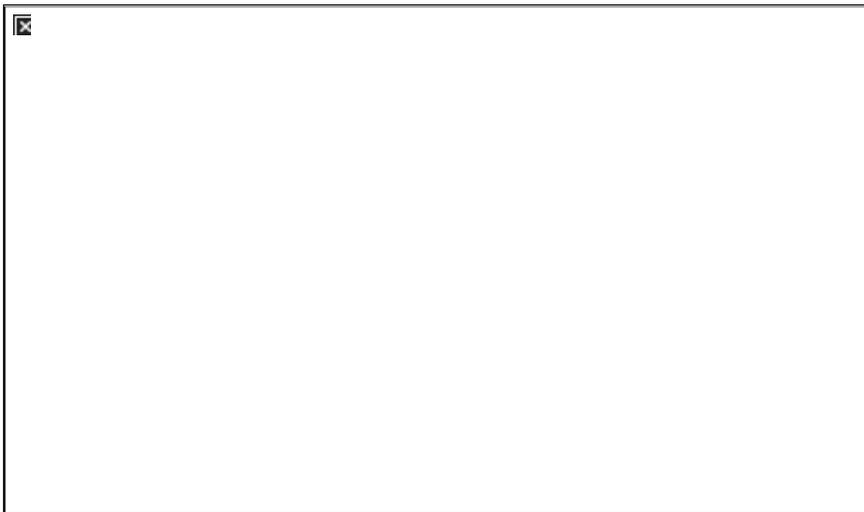
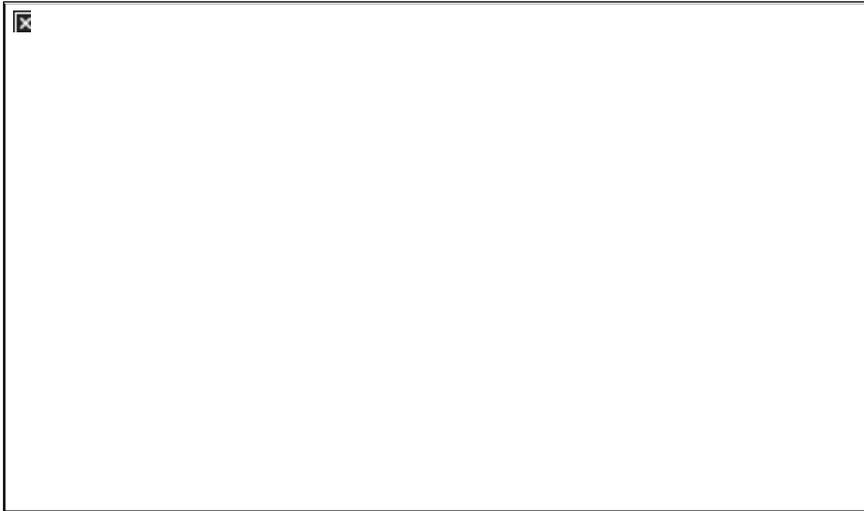
- An upper sun deck, 2 step down from the family room, incorporating a privacy screen towards the neighbours.
- A lower lounging, cooking and eating deck, extending out into the backyard such that the eating area is immersed into the garden as opposed to tucked against the building wall.
- At the back, a privacy screen was installed away from property line and surrounding a fire-pit right amidst garden plants and pavers.

The edges of the decks were used as features of interest or function:

- The upper deck's edge is a ledge to pass on food and other items from and to the barbeque, making it easier for the hostess
- The edge of the dropped patio bordering the tree became a shimmering water feature cascading around the tree with a beautiful sound background
- The garden, from the edge of the lower deck to the back, creates a backdrop, a path for deliberate promenades ending with the focal point of the fire-pit against the custom trellis screen that blocks the view of the back neighbours
- The lower bench backs on to a high planter for flowers that are visible from the inside, connecting visually with the otherwise remote garden.
- Lighting was carefully chosen and incorporated from the wall sconces on the building to step lights and garden lights.

This austere, long, impersonal and visually unprotected space achieved an elegant simplicity as a beautiful garden complex with its layering of geometry, functional areas, materials, lighting and colour.







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