

The garden at Lateral House viewed from the basement kitchen; the light-filled contemporary space links the glass and brick back of the property to the wood-clad studio at the end

SIGHT LINES

Designed over two levels, the garden of this London house has been transformed with imaginatively structured areas and smart planting, while a roof terrace offers additional outside space

TEXT **ANNIE GATTI**
PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE MAJERUS**

Two years ago, the garden at Lateral House, Miranda Leung and Jeremy Wrigley's spacious home in west London, was transformed, following the renovation of the Victorian property. The courtyard garden, on two levels and almost as wide as it is long, was reborn as a light-filled contemporary space that links the glass and brick back of the house to their wood-clad studio – formerly a garage – and is the result of a close collaboration between architects Pitman Tozer, garden designer Emma Griffin and the owners.

It can be viewed on three levels: through the glass doors of the basement kitchen; from the ground-floor balcony; and from the rooftop garden. Its geometry – a series of interlocking rectangles, squares and L-shapes – is best revealed from above and lends it a crisp modernity that was part of Miranda's brief. She also specified that it should reflect the interior and this it does most effectively in its uncluttered layout, restrained use of materials and use of colour – notably the lime green that Miranda chose as wall cladding for part of the kitchen. The limestone floor tiles extend into the lower terrace of the garden, continuing the flow from inside to out.

The view from the kitchen table is of strong, horizontal lines – from the wooden storage bench and the rendered wall that forms a backrest – and of white walls and raised beds



The geometry of this courtyard garden, with its series of interlocking rectangles, squares and L-shapes, is best revealed from the rooftop garden above



glimpsed through a rectangular bed of planting. 'The planting in this bed is designed to create a veil to the level behind,' explains Emma. 'As the season progresses and the molinia grasses build up, it takes on a semi-opaque appearance.'

Cubes and rectangles of box repeat the geometry and with glossy *Pittosporum tobira* 'Nana' create an evergreen framework. Stone steps lead to the upper level where parallel bands of random paving in black basalt define the L-shape bed in the middle of the garden and break up the expanse of beige sandstone slabs, creating a contrasting texture. On the sunny side of the garden, an L-shape bench – in the same mahogany shade of Kebony-treated timber as the studio and the slatted fencing that screens the garden on both sides – was originally designed to accommodate a table, but the family (Jeremy's

five sons stay regularly) prefer to use it just for sitting. Alongside is a raised bed that holds an *Acer palmatum* 'Corallinum', which provides vertical interest and counterbalances the mature elm on the opposite, shadier side.

The planting palette, predominantly in shades of lime green, purple, blue and white, is repeated throughout the beds and relies on species with interesting leaf shapes and patterning – from euphorbias, agapanthus, corydalis, hakonechloa and *Heuchera* 'Green Spice' – as much as colour to bring seasonal changes. Springtime tulips, *Narcissus* 'Thalia',

Helleborus Harvington white and *Euphorbia wulfenii* give way to summer alliums, *Salvia* 'Caradonna', *Alchemilla mollis*, *Geranium* 'Rozanne', *Euphorbia schillingii*, *Hydrangea* 'Annabelle' and *Cornus* 'Flaviramea' and, on the walls, fragrant *Trachelospermum jasminoides*. In winter, the lime-green stems of the cornus shine out and there's sarcococca for scent.

The stunning roof garden, with its assortment of original chimney tops, is a favourite with Jeremy's sons. With its olive trees and herbs in lightweight anthracite planters and a Kebony-topped kitchen bar with a



dual-fuel barbecue, sink and fridge, it is the ideal spot for Mediterranean-style outdoor meals. All-weather woven seating provides an uninterrupted view across a haze of *Stipa tenuissima* grasses in low planters on the perimeter of the roof, on the far side of the glass balustrade, to a river of verdant back gardens. A total of 12 planters frame the space, leaving plenty of room for circulation on the Kebony deck, which is inset with paler bands of flat pebbles – 'King Pebble' in french tan, from Island Stone – that are smooth enough to walk on in bare feet. Once again, the planting has been selected to tone with Miranda's lime-green seating cushions and consists of species that will thrive in these sometimes sun-baked conditions □

Emma Griffin: 07745-512492;
www.emmagriffingardens.com



THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Kebony-treated timber steps lead up from the garden to the ground-floor balcony. *Pittosporum tobira* 'Nana' and *Salvia* 'Caradonna'. *Acer palmatum* 'Corallinum' in a raised bed alongside the L-shape bench (left) situated on the sunny side of the garden. **OPPOSITE FROM TOP** All-weather woven seating on the rooftop provides views over neighbouring back gardens. The kitchen bar on the roof with a sink, fridge and barbecue. Looking down from above on the garden and studio below (left). Herbs, *Pittosporum tobira* and *Geranium* 'Rozanne' grow in anthracite planters