

Creating An Asian-inspired Outdoor Garden

One of the best things about working at Renovator Auctions is the amazing variety of stock that comes in week by week - recently we even had an outdoor shaolin elephant water statue, and a 4 faced Buddha head statue. We don't usually have too many outdoor shaolin elephant water statues, so it got a few of us talking about what we would do with it if we were the lucky bidders who got to take it home.

The best suggestion we could come up with was from one of our office workers - a young woman who was time poor and pining for a quiet place for a few minutes meditation away from the hubby and kids. She adored the elephant statue and thought it would look awesome in the place she called her own – a tiny pocket of an outdoor garden . So, in honour of her dream, we decided to inspire her to create a very simple Asian-themed outdoor meditation area with an elephant statue feature.

Unfortunately none of us are particularly good at gardening, so we googled Asian-inspired Outdoor areas and found a website from [Don Burke](#) from Burke's Backyard (remember that TV show-we still think it was the best Australian Gardening show ever). His site still has many of his original plans for gardens, so we were able to find this step by step guide to making a [Japanese Garden](#) – and yes we know there's not too many elephant statues in Japan, yet, somehow it just seems to work.

We combined some of the info from Burke's fact sheet with the elements of the Asian-inspired gardens on Pinterest, and worked out this **Basics Guide** for creating your own Outdoor Garden.

What You Need for A Very Simple Asian-inspired Outdoor Garden

- bamboo screening
- a few large rocks
- a few medium sized rocks
- and lots and lots of pebbles
- enough flatish rocks to make a pathway
- a large stone/cement bowl shaped planter
- one cylindrical taller stone/cement planter



- a couple of smaller cylindrical stone/cement planters
- a large rock strategically placed so you can sit and meditate in peace
- and an elephant statue of course.

****Most of the items listed above have popped up now and then at Renovator Auctions – just keep watching our home improvement listings.**

Generally, Asian-inspired outdoor gardens have plants with a range of colours, texture and height. Some of the plants we think should work well in your garden and are very hard to kill are,

Tall spikey plants like miniature bamboo, flax or other types of grasses

Medium sized graceful miniature palms

Azaleas

Low growing baby's tears

Putting It All Together

Obviously we're not really up to speed on laying outdoor paths etc. Luckily the wonderful professionals who worked on Burkes Backyard were – so check out their advice on how to install screening and path laying on their brilliant [Japanese Garden](#) step by step guide.

[Japanese Courtyard](#) and Asian style gardening is all about placement and getting things to look 'right'***. We've included the two photos on this blog to show you some of the style elements.

The easiest way to achieve a balanced style is to buy all the pieces you need and arrange them in different ways. Asian-inspired gardens are fantastically adaptable; the plants can be either planted in the ground, or simply left in pots if your garden area is small.

Like all gardening, biggest plants always go at the back and usually look fantastic near bamboo screening. Medium plants are then placed, followed by rocks, focal points (elephant feature, planters, etc), finally pebbles and ground plants like baby's tears are put into place. Always stand back and see how your design is 'working'. It's a funny thing, but you just seem to know when everything is sitting in its right spot. And it shouldn't be too long before you're meditating at the feet of your very own outdoor shaolin elephant water statue.

Be warned, there are so many fantastic outdoor garden supplies waiting for you at Renovator Auctions, you can easily be tempted take home your very own elephant statue or something equally fantastic.

Come and visit our showrooms at 28-34 Orange Grove Road, Liverpool (Warwick Farm), phone: (02) 9822 7883, fill out the form on our [contacts page](#), like us on [Facebook](#), or [email us](#).

***The history and deep meaning of Japanese Gardens is fascinating and well worth reading about, after you've created your garden of course!

