



Garden Style

A Book of Ideas

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CASE STUDY

Lofty Solutions

Garden design often involves finding imaginative solutions for difficult situations. For this loft in Bergamo, Italy, landscape architects Lucia Nusiner and Maurizio Vegini of Studio GPT rose to the challenge, to produce a design with integrity and spirit.

Their task was not only to come up with a design for the two 53-sq m (570-sq ft) terraces but also for the light wells incorporated into the split-level apartment, designed by architects Bratelli & Valesini of Studio Teka.

1 The two roof terraces are separated from each other by a glass and steel stairwell. Both are screened by a hedge of *Olea europaea* 'Cipressino'. Decking and artwork are the other unifying elements. On this terrace, the box (*Buxus*) balls and perennials *Salvia yangii* (syn. *Perovskia atriplicifolia*) and black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm') are a perfect foil for the exceptional furniture. Designed by Gaetano Pesce and bought especially for the terrace, the stools and table are iconic pieces, as is the giant outdoor anglepoise lamp. The wall art *La Tempesta* (1981) by Francesco Somaini is in a wonderful position above the water basin, planted with water lilies (*Nymphaea*) and bulrushes (*Typha*), and suggests a landscape in the distance.

2 Incorporating a living green wall into the 5-sq m (54-sq ft) lightwell has not just brought the garden indoors but also provided a focal point and backdrop. *Begonia grandis* subsp. *evansiana*, *Bergenia cordifolia*, *Iris japonica*, *Sarcococca confusa*, *Ficus pumila* 'Sunny', ivy (*Hedera hibernica*), and creeping saxifrage (*Saxifraga stolonifera*) appear to have been woven together to produce a living tapestry.

3 Difficult spaces demand inventive solutions. Here, metal containers have been stacked to form raised beds. Black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*) is underplanted with sedge (*Carex* 'Ice Dance'), ivy (*Hedera helix* 'Pittsburgh'), and mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*), forming a lush, evergreen carpet over the base of the 9-sq m (97-sq ft) light well.

4 The tall and delicate filigree shoots of the black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*) against the white wall have the aesthetic quality of a Japanese print. The design is perfect for this space and function, allowing light to reach the interior while giving a hint of a garden. Balance is vital in these interfaces between architecture and green, where spaces flow seamlessly together.



