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MAY/JUNE 2025
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GARDEN GLOW-UPS
PETITE PLOT IDEAS

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Expert view Garden design

DEAN LACEY, GARDEN DESIGNER
AND FOUNDER OF LANDART,
TALKS GARDEN DESIGN BASICS

"Keep the design simple. It can be tempting to overcomplicate and use too many materials. A good rule of thumb for balance is one-third hardscaping (limit materials to three, porcelain tiles, natural stone, timber or gravel) to two-thirds planting or softer landscaping (lawn, etc). **Focus on creating focal points:** a big garden will need several to maintain interest. Water tables are low maintenance and easy to run; add a swinging chair if space allows or statement firepit. **Zoning is key,** even in a small garden. Look to create distinct seating, dining and planting areas with subtle level changes in flooring, outdoor rugs or screens. Well-defined zones create depth and interest and give a more spacious feel. **Don't forget the verticals;** a pergola is great for height and structure; consider incorporating a living wall or built-in floating seating. Plan for all seasons, too, when planting for year-round interest: evergreens for structure (Taxus, Tree Ferns, olives), layered planting (bulbs, perennials, shrubs) and climbers (Star Jasmine). **Privacy is a consideration.** Being overlooked is the reality for most people living in towns and cities. Hedges and evergreen screening trees, such as pleached trees, enhance seclusion and hide unsightly views while giving the garden structure and visual interest. **Irrigation is essential** but often overlooked. An automated drip system is convenient and money-saving, providing consistent moisture while preventing over or under-watering."

Landart.ie



ABOVE Courtyard garden in Terenure, LandArt

LEFT View out to Mount Merrion garden, LandArt

BELOW Plant pot, €490, Stoneandbeige.com; Kensington copper watering can, €38, Coolbe.com. Cement urn vase, €42, Marksandspencer.ie

"A well-designed garden should feel like an integral part of your home, not separate to it"

