

OUTDOOR OASIS

Celebrated landscape designer Janine Mendel is the mastermind behind the soon-to-be unveiled WA Landscape Design Association's display garden



An artist's impression of WA Landscape Design Association display garden, designed by Janine Mendel, from Cultivart Landscape Design

AN absolute highlight of the Perth Garden Festival will be the WA Landscape Design Association (WALDA) display garden, which has been designed by one of Australia's most highly respected landscape designers, Janine Mendel, from Cultivart Landscape Design.

Janine has a well-deserved reputation for excellence in design and for producing stunning, contemporary urban gardens.

The 100sq m garden is being built by landscape professionals and WALDA members, ensuring the end result will be inspiring, visually stimulating and thought provoking.

As Janine points out: "This stunning show garden will inspire everyone to reconsider the potential of their own outdoor spaces."

The hardscapes are bound to attract attention. The Mondrian-inspired pergola takes centre stage and is supported by large-format bluestone paving and natural travertine wall cladding. The recessed fireplace makes the space usable and inviting all year. A beautiful outdoor canvas with a botanic print, laser-cut screens and a brilliantly designed pond and natural stone creek bed all add to the appeal.

I can't wait to see the larger-than-life stylised dove that will take up residence among the generous plantings.

A deck walkway will lead visitors through the gardens. Its gentle curves will be a delightful contrast to the sharp, geometric lines of the alfresco

and oversized Serralunga pots (stunning features in their own right) that will be planted up with *Zamia furfuracea*, the cardboard palm.

As with any garden, the plants are a critical element. In keeping with the 20/20/20 Vision that will be prominent throughout the festival, plantings will be lush, generous and abundant.

Look out for the Bali Whirl frangipani, the first ever double-flowered form of frangipani. Another feature plant is "Eric the Red" aloe. Aloes are incredibly hardy plants that thrive in our climate and deserve to be more widely planted. Once they're seen in the context of this garden, I'm sure they soon will be.

Three amazing vertical gardens will also be planted with an elegant mix of native, exotic and succulent specimens.

Not only will festival visitors be inspired by the display garden, they will also get to talk to WALDA members. These wonderful people will be happy to share their knowledge on all aspects of landscape design and installation. WALDA members are design professionals who have skills, training and experience in a wide range of landscaping disciplines.

The finished garden will be a product of some of the best minds and hands in the business, combined with products and materials from Perth's premium landscape and garden suppliers. Anyone contemplating installing a new garden - or renovating an old one - would be crazy not to take advantage of this opportunity.

DARREN SEINOR



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