

## FIVE X FIVE SERIES (projects smaller than 25 sq.m.)

### North-facing Patio: Southampton, Hampshire completed Spring 2009

The rear of this property was going to be extended. My clients felt that this gave them an opportunity to update the rear patio area and to address the problematic and narrow access around the western side of the house at the same time.

The architect's plans showed a much larger kitchen area with two sets of new patio doors from the sitting room. This would give the large rear kitchen / dining room a strong relationship with the garden area immediately outside.

On site, I noticed that the prevailing wind was funnelled along the narrow side access into the proposed patio area. Combined with a north-facing aspect, this could make the patio an uncomfortable and draughty place to spend any length of time.

A 1.2m deep wooden stub wall and pergola was built on to the NW corner of the property to deflect the wind. Another long brick wall with built-in barbecue / outdoor kitchen area was extended from the opposite corner of the property to create a contained, balanced space framing a 4m deep patio.

The next task was to link smoothly from the patio area and rear garden around the narrow side access without creating pinch points or drawing attention to the awkward boundary area. My clients opted for a sinuous, gently curving pathway that bisected the patio area and sloped down gradually towards the lower surface area at the side of the property. This then created a second, smaller seating area under a pergola sited to train the existing vine over, and overlooking the main patio area.



^ **BEFORE:** the small patio area at the rear of this detached property will be partially built over during the house extension works. The side access to the rear garden is very narrow. v **AFTER:** the lawn is now flush with the larger patio area, creating a seamless transition from the house to the garden



^ **BEFORE:** the cluttered side access area with the changes in surface level visible v **AFTER:** the path towards the side of the house now slopes down gently along the edge of the main patio. Trellis work adds valuable privacy along the western boundary. A new shed is located further down the garden

