

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

Front Garden Strip: Winchester, Hampshire

The frontage of this detached property had been planted with vigorous shrubs at least a decade ago. The narrow strip has now become difficult to manage and congested.

When I stepped back, across the road to take a good look at the front elevation, I noticed the use of wood in the house's design.

I felt it would help to strengthen the link between the house and the front garden if I also used wood in some way, perhaps as the primary material here.

I also noticed that the road begins to slope markedly down to the left from this point in the street and I played with the idea of creating a counterpointing relationship in the shapes and levels of this front garden.

Also, when I measured the length of the frontage, I found that the width of the brick verandah area was two-fifths the total width. This prompted me to base my design of the garden on five equi-spaced areas.

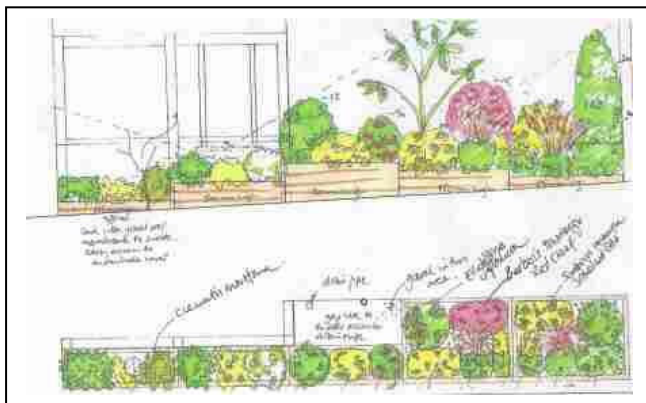
This quickly translated into five raised wooden planters, flush with the edge of the property with different heights (and depths) to provide a wave effect and painted to match the existing wood work. Now, the planter boxes connect strongly with the house and also counterpoint the slope of the street.



^ **BEFORE:** the front garden area is a narrow planted strip that has become very untidy and overgrown



^ **AFTER:** A series of five planted wooden boxes replace the soil strip and smarten the frontage of the property



^ **BEFORE:** This view indicates the narrow depth of the front garden. v **AFTER:** same view after planters were built and beds planted up



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