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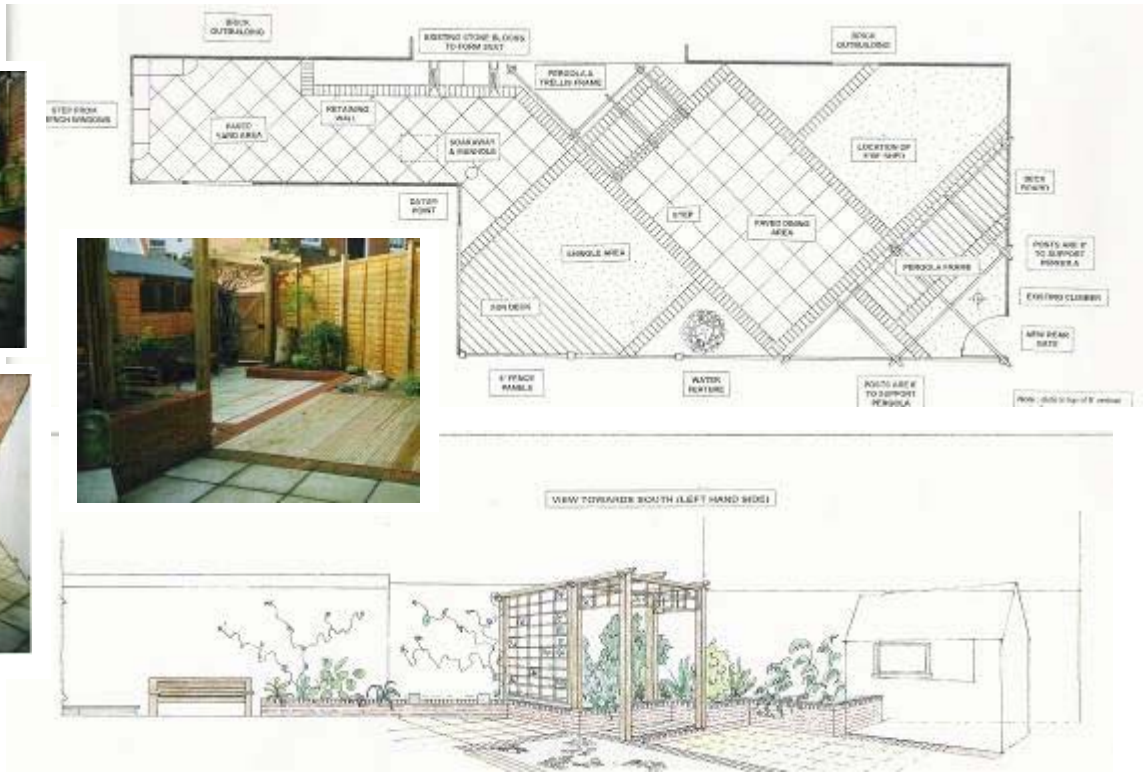
Woolston, Southampton, Hampshire, UK

completed June 2001

This is a typical garden in shape and size that you'll find behind many terrace properties in Southampton. A small side yard alongside the kitchen or bathroom extension opens out to a reasonable space beyond. Privacy is a high priority. The trick is to draw the eye along the narrow yard and into the bigger space – this garden achieves this by creating a 45 degree turn at the end of the yard area.



My client, who suffered from back problems at the time, wanted an easy to maintain garden within a simple and unfussy layout. I proposed removing the lawn (a high maintenance element) in favour of paving and decked surfaces and raised beds.

He also wanted a relatively large (8' x 6') potting shed in the space. A shed of this size is difficult to get right in relation to the available space but the 45 degrees layout throughout the garden helped make the shed appear to recede into the distance.

Whilst the triangular shaped beds don't disguise the boundary fences (the client wanted higher fencing than normal), they interrupt the boundary lines sufficiently well and climbers will grow to cover the panels in time. Two pergolas act as 'bookends' in the lower space and create a surprisingly intimate and enclosed patio area for an urban location.