

**THE
STYLE**



“A well-designed garden should have a sense of balance and sit comfortably in its environment.”

ANTHONY WYER

The landscape architect has an organic approach to design.



JEM CRESSWELL PHOTOGRAPHY

Changing the landscape

Anthony Wyer is the ‘master’s apprentice’ who has gone on to stamp his own authority on garden design. *By ELICIA MURRAY*

Q: What are your earliest garden memories?

A: My mum was an avid gardener, and still is today. Our garden was a mixture of cuttings borrowed from unsuspecting neighbours and plants given to her by family and friends.

Q: How did you break into this industry?

A: My first job was a landscape gardener. My early jobs were in a more structural capacity [but] the turning point came in my early 20s when I had the good fortune of working for Will Dangar.

Q: William Dangar is one of Australia’s best known landscape designers. What did you learn from him?

A: Will has been a great mentor and a great friend. His work showed me a more sophisticated

approach to landscape design and entrenched my desire to work in the space. He is very passionate about his work and is committed to good design. Both are essential qualities for success. I’ve worked hard to stay true to both.

Q: Tell us about your company, Wyer & Co.

A: I started as a one-man band 17 years ago. Today, Wyer & Co works on some of Sydney’s finest homes as well as wonderful country properties. It’s a privilege to produce the style of work I’d always dreamed of.

Q: How would you describe your design philosophy?


A: A well-designed garden should have a sense of balance and sit comfortably in its

environment. More and more, I find this is possible to achieve with an organic approach, with layers of planting for textural interest, mixing plant types to add botanical drama and knowing when to be bold and break rules.

Q: What’s the most memorable project you’ve completed?

A: It has to be Horseshoe Bend in Wanaka, a [5.6-hectare] property on New Zealand’s South Island. The client and I clicked from the outset. He trusted my vision. The outcome is a natural wonderland, with a picturesque dam, edible forest, a go-cart track, bocce court and never-ending green grass.

Q: What does your own garden look like?

A: Very green, but it’s always a work in progress! It’s a great place for me to try out new plant combinations and design ideas. There is concern around the neighbourhood that the garden may one day eat my house. Most importantly, though, the garden is a place for my wife and I, and our four energetic kids, to spend time together. 

Playing with textures and plant types allows Anthony Wyer to create a sense of drama in his gardens.