

Backyard Space— With a Bit of Whimsy

A small retreat behind the house offers extra room for work or school—or just an escape from the chaos. And its location allows for artistically inspired designs

In San Francisco, landscape architect Scott Lewis cleverly upgraded an existing wooden shed by smothering it in *Hedera helix*, or English ivy. To do this, he designed a galvanized steel grid with 18-inch square openings to surround the shed walls. A 3-inch gap between the grid and walls prevents the ivy from attaching to

the wood. Around the structure is a stunning mix of iceberg roses, dwarf white deutzia, *Veronica white wands* and white western bleeding hearts.

The shed, located on a lot that measures just 25-feet wide, proves that backyards don't have to be huge to accommodate extra living space. Its owner uses the circa 96-square-foot space as an art studio, but it could just as easily be an office.

According to Savills' Residential Global Market Sentiment Survey, published in May, the substantial increase in working from home will have a long-term impact on buyer priorities; some 75% of the international real-estate agents surveyed thought demand for home offices will increase.



English ivy covers a galvanized steel grid built to surround the walls of a 96-square-foot shed. Located on a narrow lot, the shed proves that backyards don't have to be big to accommodate extra living space.