



JAPANESE ZEN

# Garden Design Proposal

Landscape Architectural Specification

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PREPARED FOR  
**gers house**

## 01 PROJECT OVERVIEW

Client	gers house
Site Address	—
Date	23 March 2026
Design Language	Japanese Zen
Estimated Area	43.7 m <sup>2</sup>

This proposal outlines a comprehensive garden redesign for a narrow urban plot, transforming it into a tranquil Japanese Zen-inspired space. The plan includes significant replanting with structural shrubs and small trees, the introduction of new hard surfaces such as paving and gravel, and the integration of key Zen garden elements. The design focuses on creating a contemplative retreat while working within the existing site boundaries and structures.

### Project Objectives

- Create a serene and contemplative Japanese Zen garden aesthetic.
- Maximise the perceived width and depth of the narrow garden through strategic layout and planting.
- Establish distinct functional zones for relaxation, contemplation, and circulation.
- Introduce a diverse palette of plants suitable for USDA Zone 8 and a NW aspect, emphasising year-round interest.
- Improve soil health and drainage to support new planting schemes.
- Minimise ongoing maintenance requirements through thoughtful material and plant selection.
- Integrate subtle lighting to enhance evening ambiance and safety.
- Screen undesirable views while retaining existing mature trees where appropriate.

## 02 SITE ANALYSIS & CONSTRAINTS

### Sun Exposure

Orientation	NW
Morning Light	Partial Shade
Afternoon Light	Partial Shade

- Left boundary wall (1.6m high)
- Right boundary wall (1.6m high)
- Rear boundary wall (1.8m high)
- Existing dense trees along the right boundary
- Adjacent residential buildings

### Soil & Drainage

Soil Type	Unknown
Drainage	The existing patchy grass on dark soil suggests moderate drainage, potentially poor in compacted areas. Improvement is necessary for new planting.
Hardiness Zone	USDA Zone 8 / RHS H4

- Incorporate significant quantities of well-rotted organic compost (e.g., mushroom compost, garden compost) to improve structure and fertility.
- Add horticultural grit or coarse sand to heavy soil areas to enhance drainage.
- Conduct a pH test to confirm acidity, especially for acid-loving plants like Rhododendrons and Camellias; amend with ericaceous compost if needed.

### Existing Features

Feature	Type	Disposition
Yucca in pot	Other	Relocate

Large tree/shrub (rear right)	Tree	Retain
Multi-colored tree/shrub (mid right)	Shrub	Retain
Patchy grass lawn	Other	Remove
Concrete path (right side)	Path	Remove
Concrete paving slabs (front left)	Path	Remove

### Microclimate Notes

- Rear Right Corner: Sheltered by existing dense trees and the rear/right walls, this area receives less direct sun and retains more moisture, creating a cooler, shadier microclimate.
- Central Open Area: More exposed to the sky, this area receives more ambient light and is subject to greater air movement, leading to slightly drier conditions compared to the sheltered corners.

The garden is largely flat, with a slight, almost imperceptible slope down towards the rear right concrete path. No significant level changes are proposed, maintaining a cohesive ground plane.

## 03 DESIGN CONCEPT & VISION

The design transforms the narrow urban garden into a tranquil Japanese Zen retreat, focusing on simplicity, naturalness, and contemplation. It employs a minimalist palette of natural materials and carefully selected plants to create a harmonious and balanced space, offering a peaceful escape from urban life.

The Japanese Zen design language is particularly well-suited for this narrow urban garden due to its emphasis on creating a sense of spaciousness and tranquility within confined areas. Its principles of asymmetry, borrowed scenery, and the use of natural elements (stone, gravel, water, carefully pruned plants) will visually expand the space, provide year-round interest, and foster a calm, meditative atmosphere that aligns with the client's desire for a peaceful outdoor room.

### Design Principles

- Kanso (Simplicity): Elimination of clutter, focus on essential elements.
- Shizen (Naturalness): Use of natural materials and forms, avoiding artificiality.
- Fukinsei (Asymmetry): Balanced composition without perfect symmetry, reflecting nature's imperfections.
- Seijaku (Tranquility): Creation of a calm and peaceful atmosphere.
- Yugen (Subtlety): Suggestion rather than explicit statement, inviting deeper contemplation.
- Shibui (Understated Beauty): Elegant simplicity, avoiding ostentation.

### Material & Mood Direction

- Smooth Porcelain Paving
- Raked Granite Gravel
- Weathered Natural Boulders
- Dark Stained Timber (for screen/bench)
- Polished River Pebbles
- Textured Concrete (existing walls, painted)

## 04 SPATIAL LAYOUT & ZONING

The spatial composition employs asymmetry and a strong diagonal axis to create an illusion of greater depth and width in the narrow plot. The Zen Gravel Garden forms the core, with the Contemplation Deck strategically placed at the rear to provide an elevated vantage point. Vertical elements like the feature Acer palmatum and bamboo screens break up the linear boundaries, while low-lying planting and raked gravel maintain an open, uncluttered feel. Proportion and scale are carefully considered to ensure elements feel balanced and harmonious within the confined space.

### Design Zones

Zone	Type	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Contemplation Deck	Contemplation	4.5
Zen Gravel Garden	Contemplation	12
Entry Patio	Entrance	6
Perimeter Planting Beds	Planting Bed	15

### Focal Points

- Traditional Stone Lantern: Positioned within the Zen Gravel Garden (C2), serving as a classic element for contemplation and evening illumination.
- Feature Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood': Centrally placed (B3) as a specimen tree, providing seasonal colour and architectural form.
- Stone Water Basin (Tsukubai): Located on the Contemplation Deck (E1), offering a subtle sound element and a traditional Zen feature for ritual purification or simple aesthetic pleasure.
- Sculptural Boulder Grouping: A cluster of three natural boulders of varying sizes within the Zen Gravel Garden (D3), representing islands or mountains.

### Circulation Routes

- R1: Natural stone stepping stones set in gravel, 0.8m wide
- R2: Paving slabs, 0.6m wide

## 05 PLANTING SPECIFICATION

The planting strategy employs a multi-layered approach to create depth and visual interest. A canopy layer is established by the existing mature trees, providing dappled shade. An understory layer is introduced with the feature *Acer palmatum*. The shrub layer consists of evergreen *Rhododendrons*, *Camellias*, *Skimmias*, and *Azaleas*, providing structure and seasonal blooms. The ground layer is rich in texture with *Japanese Forest Grass*, *Black Mondo Grass*, *Soft Shield Ferns*, *Hostas*, and moss-like groundcovers, softening edges and providing year-round foliage interest.

### Plant Schedule

Botanical Name	Common Name	Qty	Mature Size	Layer
<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Bloodgood'	Japanese Maple	1	4-5m H x 3-4m W	Understorey
<i>Fargesia murielae</i> 'Rufus'	Clumping Bamboo	2	2.5-3m H x 1.5-2m W	Shrub
<i>Rhododendron</i> 'Praecox'	Early Rhododendron	2	1.5m H x 1.5m W	Shrub
<i>Camellia japonica</i> 'Nuccio's Gem'	Japanese Camellia	1	2.5m H x 1.5m W	Shrub
<i>Skimmia japonica</i> 'Rubella'	Japanese Skimmia	3	0.8m H x 0.8m W	Shrub
<i>Hakonechloa macra</i> 'Aureola'	Japanese Forest Grass	5	0.4m H x 0.6m W	Ground
<i>Ophiopogon planiscapus</i> 'Nigrescens'	Black Mondo Grass	8	0.2m H x 0.3m W	Ground
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i> 'Proliferum'	Soft Shield Fern	4	0.6m H x 0.6m W	Ground
<i>Hosta</i> 'Halcyon'	Plantain Lily	3	0.4m H x 0.6m W	Ground
<i>Sagina subulata</i>	Irish Moss	6	0.05m H x 0.3m W	Ground
<i>Azalea japonica</i> 'Geisha Orange'	Japanese Azalea	2	0.6m H x 0.8m W	Shrub
<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>	Mind-your-own-business	5	0.05m H x spreading	Ground

05b SEASONAL INTEREST MATRIX

Plant	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
<b>Japanese Maple</b>	Emerging deep red-purple foliage, delicate red flowers.	Rich, dark burgundy foliage holding colour well.	Brilliant scarlet and crimson leaf colour before leaf drop.	Attractive bare branch structure, dark bark.
<b>Clumping Bamboo</b>	New culms emerge with reddish sheaths.	Dense, arching green foliage provides privacy and movement.	Foliage remains vibrant green.	Evergreen screening, provides structure and sound in wind.
<b>Early Rhododendron</b>	Abundant clusters of small, funnel-shaped lavender-pink flowers.	Dense, dark green evergreen foliage.	Foliage remains dark green.	Evergreen structure, early flower buds visible.
<b>Japanese Camellia</b>	Large, formal double white flowers.	Glossy, dark green evergreen foliage.	Foliage remains vibrant green, flower buds begin to form.	Spectacular white blooms provide essential winter interest.
<b>Japanese Skimmia</b>	Fragrant white flowers emerge from red buds.	Dense, dark green evergreen foliage.	Bright red flower buds provide long-lasting colour.	Prominent red flower buds offer excellent winter interest.
<b>Japanese Forest Grass</b>	Bright green and gold variegated arching foliage emerges.	Cascading mounds of vibrant foliage.	Foliage turns shades of orange, red, and bronze.	Dried foliage provides architectural interest, especially when frosted.
<b>Black Mondo Grass</b>	New shoots emerge, maintaining striking black foliage.	Small, pale lavender flowers followed by glossy black berries.	Foliage remains deep black, berries persist.	Evergreen, provides dramatic dark contrast and texture.
<b>Soft Shield Fern</b>	New fronds unfurl in a delicate, lacy manner.	Lush, evergreen fronds provide texture and greenery.	Foliage remains vibrant green.	Evergreen, providing structure and interest in shadier spots.
<b>Plantain Lily</b>	Emerging blue-green foliage unfurls from the ground.	Dense mounds of striking blue-green, corrugated leaves, with lavender flowers on scapes.	Foliage turns yellow before dying back.	Dormant, leaving space for winter interest plants or bare earth.
<b>Irish Moss</b>	Vibrant green, moss-like foliage begins vigorous growth.	Tiny white flowers appearing the mat of foliage.	Foliage maintains its lush green colour.	Evergreen, providing a low, dense carpet of green.
<b>Japanese Azalea</b>	Profusion of vibrant orange-red flowers.	Small, dark green evergreen foliage.	Foliage can develop bronze tints.	Evergreen structure, providing subtle winter interest.
<b>Mind-your-own-business</b>	Rapidly forms a dense carpet of tiny, bright green leaves.	Maintains lush green coverage, small inconspicuous flowers.	Foliage remains vibrant green.	Evergreen in mild climates, provides continuous ground-cover.

In **Spring**, the garden awakens with the vibrant lavender-pink blooms of Rhododendron 'Praecox' and the striking white flowers of Camellia 'Nuccio's Gem'. Azaleas add a burst of orange-red, while the deep red foliage of Acer 'Bloodgood' unfurls. New fronds of Soft Shield Fern and the bright green of Japanese Forest Grass emerge. **Summer** brings lush, varied green textures from the evergreen shrubs and ferns, complemented by the arching form of Hakonechloa and the dark contrast of Ophiopogon. Hostas provide bold foliage, and subtle flowers appear on Mondo Grass. **Autumn** is marked by the spectacular transformation of the Japanese Maple's foliage to brilliant scarlet and crimson. Hakonechloa also takes on warm autumnal hues. Skimmia's red buds begin to show, promising winter colour. **Winter** offers evergreen structure from Camellias, Rhododendrons, Skimmias, and Fargesia bamboo. The bare branches of the Japanese Maple provide architectural interest, while Skimmia's red buds and Camellia's white flowers provide crucial colour and fragrance against the muted winter landscape.

## 06 HARDSCAPE & MATERIALS PALETTE

The hardscape palette is carefully curated to evoke a sense of calm and natural simplicity, central to the Japanese Zen aesthetic. Charcoal grey porcelain paving provides a clean, modern base for the Contemplation Deck and Entry Patio, offering a strong contrast to the light grey granite gravel of the Zen Garden. Natural slate stepping stones introduce organic shapes and a darker tone, guiding circulation with understated elegance. River cobbles and pebbles form the dry stream bed, mimicking natural water elements. All boundary walls are unified with a light grey masonry paint, acting as a neutral backdrop that allows the planting and focal points to stand out. Dark stained timber for the privacy screen and the traditional stone lantern and water basin complete the material story, grounding the design in natural textures and muted colours, fostering a tranquil and harmonious environment.

### Materials Schedule

Element	Material	Finish	Unit Cost
Contemplation Deck Paving	Large Format Porcelain Paving	Matt, lightly textured	£45-65 per m <sup>2</sup>
Zen Gravel Garden Surface	Granite Gravel (10-20mm)	Washed, angular	£70-90 per tonne
Stepping Stones	Natural Slate Paving Slabs	Riven, natural edge	£15-25 per slab
Dry Stream Bed	River Cobbles and Pebbles (20-100mm)	Smooth, rounded	£80-120 per tonne
Boundary Wall Paint	Exterior Masonry Paint	Matt	£40-60 per 5L
Timber Privacy Screen	Treated Softwood Battens	Dark Stain	£15-25 per linear metre

### Boundary Treatments

- Left Boundary Wall: Cleaned and painted in a light grey masonry paint (approx. 1.6m high).
- Right Boundary Wall: Cleaned and painted in a light grey masonry paint (approx. 1.6m high), with the existing trees pruned to reveal the wall and allow light.
- Rear Boundary Wall: Cleaned and painted in a light grey masonry paint (approx. 1.8m high), with a dark stained timber privacy screen (approx. 1.8m high x 2m wide) installed to partially obscure the shed behind the right side of the wall.

### Water Features & Focal Structures

- Tsukubai (Stone Water Basin): A traditional carved granite water basin (approx. 40cm diameter, 30cm high) with a bamboo spout (kakehi) for a gentle, trickling sound. Located on the Contemplation Deck (E1).
- Stone Lantern: A traditional granite Yukimi-gata (snow-viewing) lantern (approx. 80cm high) placed within the Zen Gravel Garden (C2) as a key focal point.
- Timber Privacy Screen: A vertical slatted timber screen (approx. 1.8m H x 2m W) stained dark, positioned at the rear right boundary to partially conceal utility areas or enhance privacy for the Contemplation Deck.

### Lighting Specification

Type	Location	Colour Temp
Path Light	Along Stepping Stone Path (R1)	2700K
Uplighter	Base of Feature Acer (P1) and Bamboo (P2)	3000K
Feature Light	Stone Lantern (Focal Point) and Water Basin (Tsukubai)	2200K

## 07 SOIL, DRAINAGE & IRRIGATION

### Soil Preparation

Phase 1: Clear all existing vegetation, including patchy grass and weeds. Phase 2: Deep dig (approx. 30-40cm) to break up any compaction. Phase 3: Incorporate a minimum of 10-15cm layer of well-rotted organic compost and horticultural grit into the existing soil, thoroughly mixing to improve structure, fertility, and drainage. Phase 4: For acid-loving plants, create specific pockets amended with ericaceous compost. Phase 5: Top dress all planting beds with a 5cm layer of high-quality, weed-free topsoil before planting.

### Drainage Strategy

The primary drainage strategy involves significant soil amendment with organic matter and grit to improve overall permeability. For areas prone to waterlogging, a discreet sub-surface French drain could be installed along the base of the right boundary wall, directing excess water to a soakaway pit at the rear of the garden. The Zen Gravel Garden will be laid over a permeable membrane and a well-draining sub-base to prevent water accumulation.

### Mulching

All planting beds should be mulched with a 5-7cm layer of fine bark mulch immediately after planting. This will help suppress weeds, retain soil moisture, regulate soil temperature, and slowly break down to enrich the soil. The Zen Gravel Garden will serve as its own 'mulch' layer.

### Irrigation Zones

Zone	Type	Coverage (m <sup>2</sup> )
Perimeter Planting Beds	Drip	15
Feature Plants & Containers	Manual	2

**08 PHASING & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**Total Duration** 6 weeks

Hardscaping (site clearance, ground prep, paving, gravel) must be completed before planting can commence. Boundary wall treatment can run concurrently with ground preparation. Electrical work for lighting should be roughed in during hardscape phase. Planting is the final major task before installing decorative features and final mulching. Weather dependency for groundworks and painting is a key factor.

Phase	Task	Days
Phase 1 — Hardscape	Site Clearance & Demolition	3
Phase 1 — Hardscape	Ground Preparation & Drainage	4
Phase 1 — Hardscape	Paving & Gravel Installation	5
Phase 2 — Planting	Boundary Wall Treatment	3
Phase 2 — Planting	Soil Amendment & Bed Preparation	3
Phase 2 — Planting	Planting & Irrigation Installation	4
Phase 3 — Finishing	Focal Point & Feature Installation	2
Phase 3 — Finishing	Lighting Installation	2
Phase 3 — Finishing	Mulching & Final Tidy	1

**09 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

Season	Task	Frequency
Spring	Feed acid-loving plants	Annually
Spring	Prune Japanese Maples	Annually
Summer	Weeding	Fortnightly
Summer	Watering	As Required
Autumn	Leaf Clearance	Weekly
Autumn	Mulch Replenishment	Annually
Winter	Check Drainage	Monthly
Winter	Clean Hard Surfaces	Annually

**Annual Pruning Regime**

Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood': Prune lightly in late winter/early spring (before sap rises) to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and to maintain desired shape. Rhododendron 'Praecox' and Azalea japonica: Deadhead spent flowers and prune lightly after flowering to maintain shape. Camellia japonica 'Nuccio's Gem': Prune lightly after flowering to shape and remove any leggy growth. Fargesia murielae 'Rufus': Remove any old or damaged culms at ground level in spring to encourage new growth. Skimmia japonica 'Rubella': Requires minimal pruning, just remove any straggly shoots to maintain a compact form.

**Feeding Schedule**

General purpose slow-release granular fertiliser applied to all planting beds in early spring. Acid-loving plants (Rhododendron, Camellia, Azalea) should receive an additional application of ericaceous liquid feed or granular fertiliser after flowering

in spring/early summer. Hostas benefit from a balanced granular feed in early spring as new growth emerges. Mondo Grass and ferns generally require minimal feeding.

**Long-term Management**

Over 5-10 years, monitor the growth of all plants, especially the bamboo, to ensure they do not outgrow their space or become invasive (though Fargesia is clumping). Consider dividing larger clumps of Hakonechloa and Ophiopogon every 3-5 years to maintain vigour. Regularly inspect hardscaping for wear and tear, re-pointing paving or topping up gravel as needed. Maintain the painted walls every 3-5 years. The existing mature trees should be professionally assessed and pruned every 2-3 years to ensure their health and integration with the design.

Professional Visits                      2 per year

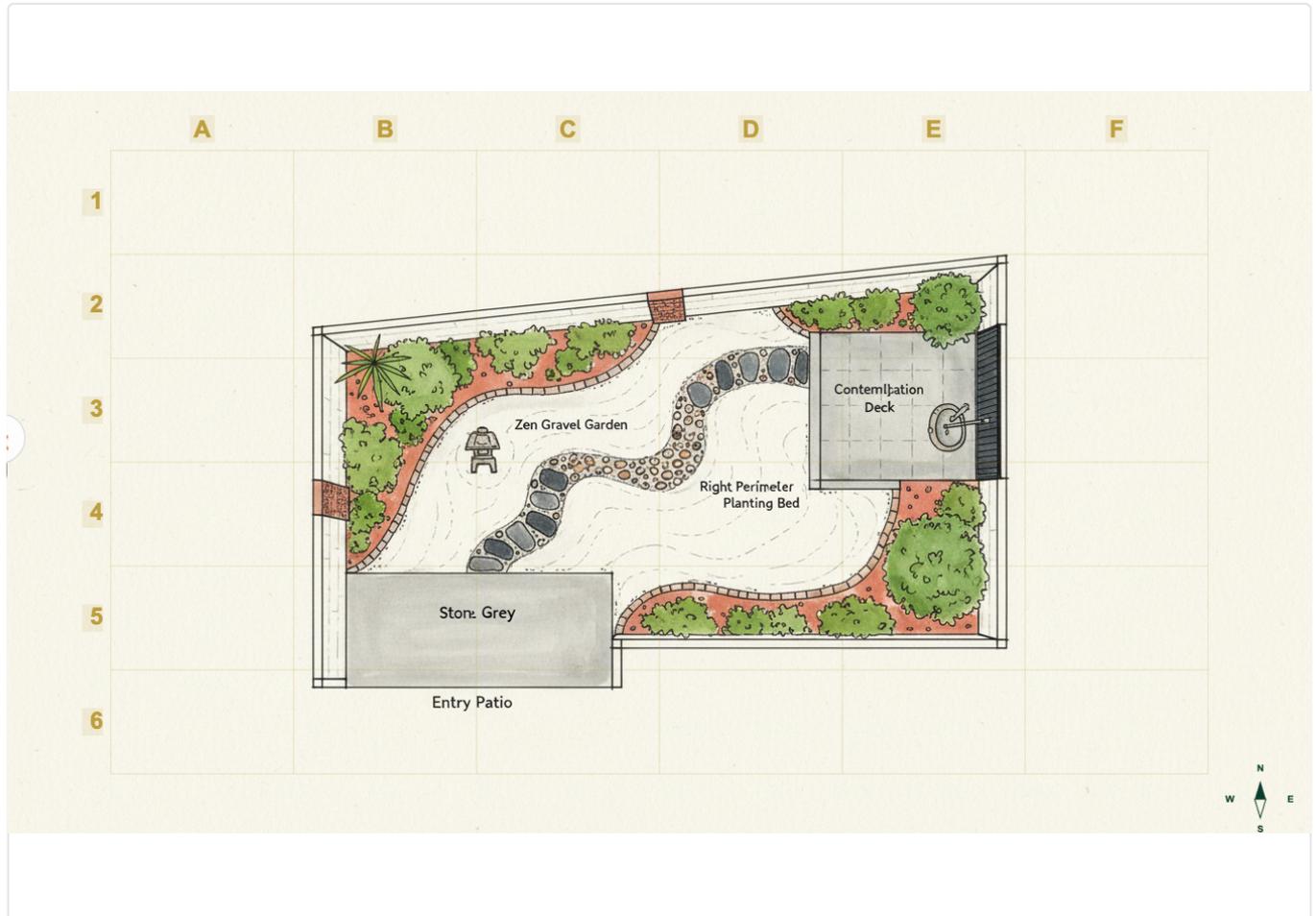
**10 COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY**

Category	Description	Low	High
<b>Plants &amp; Bulbs</b>	All trees, shrubs, grasses, ferns, and groundcovers specified.	£900	£1,300
<b>Compost &amp; Mulch</b>	Organic compost, ericaceous compost, topsoil, bark mulch.	£350	£500
<b>Paving Materials</b>	Porcelain paving slabs, natural slate stepping stones.	£700	£1,100
<b>Gravel &amp; Decorative Stone</b>	Granite gravel, river cobbles, and decorative boulders.	£600	£900
<b>Garden Structures &amp; Features</b>	Stone lantern, tsukubai water basin, timber screen materials.	£800	£1,400
<b>Tools &amp; Equipment</b>	Hire of skip for waste, basic hand tools, wheelbarrow, soil compactor hire.	£400	£600
<b>Irrigation Supplies</b>	Drip irrigation kit, fittings, timer, rainwater butt.	£250	£400
<b>Boundary Treatment Materials</b>	Masonry paint, cleaning supplies, primer.	£150	£250
<b>Total incl. 15% contingency</b>		<b>£4,773 – £7,417</b>	

All cost estimates are based on retail prices for materials and plants available in the Irish market for a self-implementation project. These figures do not include any labour costs for contractors or designers. Prices are indicative and may vary based on supplier, seasonal availability, and specific product choices. A 15% contingency is recommended to cover unforeseen expenses or minor changes during implementation.

**App A GARDEN LAYOUT PLAN**

Top-down layout sketch with plant position markers. Numbers correspond to the plant schedule in Section 05. Print this and take it outside.



**Plant Reference**

#	Grid	Plant	Description
1	B3	<b>Acer palmatum — Japanese Maple</b>	Provides a strong vertical focal point and essential Japanese aesthetic, offering dramatic seasonal colour. Thrives in partial shade.
2	A1	<b>Fargesia murielae — Clumping Bamboo</b>	Non-invasive bamboo offers excellent evergreen screening along the rear boundary, adding texture and movement typical of Zen gardens.
3	A2	<b>Rhododendron — Early Rhododendron</b>	Provides early spring colour and evergreen structure, suitable for the shadier, acid-loving conditions of the perimeter beds.
4	F3	<b>Camellia japonica — Japanese Camellia</b>	Adds elegant evergreen structure and striking winter/spring blooms, thriving in the sheltered, shadier conditions.
5	A4	<b>Skimmia japonica — Japanese Skimmia</b>	Compact evergreen shrub with year-round interest from foliage and buds, ideal for underplanting and adding structure to beds.
6	C4	<b>Hakonechloa macra — Japanese Forest Grass</b>	Softens hard edges with its elegant, arching form and provides movement and texture, perfectly suited to the Zen aesthetic.
7	D4	<b>Ophiopogon planiscapus — Black Mondo Grass</b>	Offers a unique dark contrast against lighter gravel and stone, providing evergreen groundcover and a strong visual element.
8	A3	<b>Polystichum setiferum — Soft Shield Fern</b>	Ideal for the shadier, damp areas of the perimeter beds, adding lush, textural evergreen foliage typical of naturalistic Zen gardens.

9	F5	<b>Hosta — Plantain Lily</b>	Provides bold, textural foliage in shadier areas, complementing the Zen aesthetic with its simple, elegant form.
10	C5	<b>Sagina subulata — Irish Moss</b>	Creates a soft, moss-like carpet between stepping stones, enhancing the natural and contemplative feel of the Zen garden.
11	F4	<b>Azalea japonica — Japanese Azalea</b>	Adds a burst of vibrant spring colour and evergreen structure, suitable for the acid soil conditions of the perimeter beds.
12	F2	<b>Soleirolia soleirolia — Mind-your-own-business</b>	Excellent for filling in damp, shady areas quickly, creating a soft, textural carpet under existing trees and softening hard edges.

**App B APPENDICES**

**B — Site Photography: Before & After**

BEFORE — EXISTING SITE

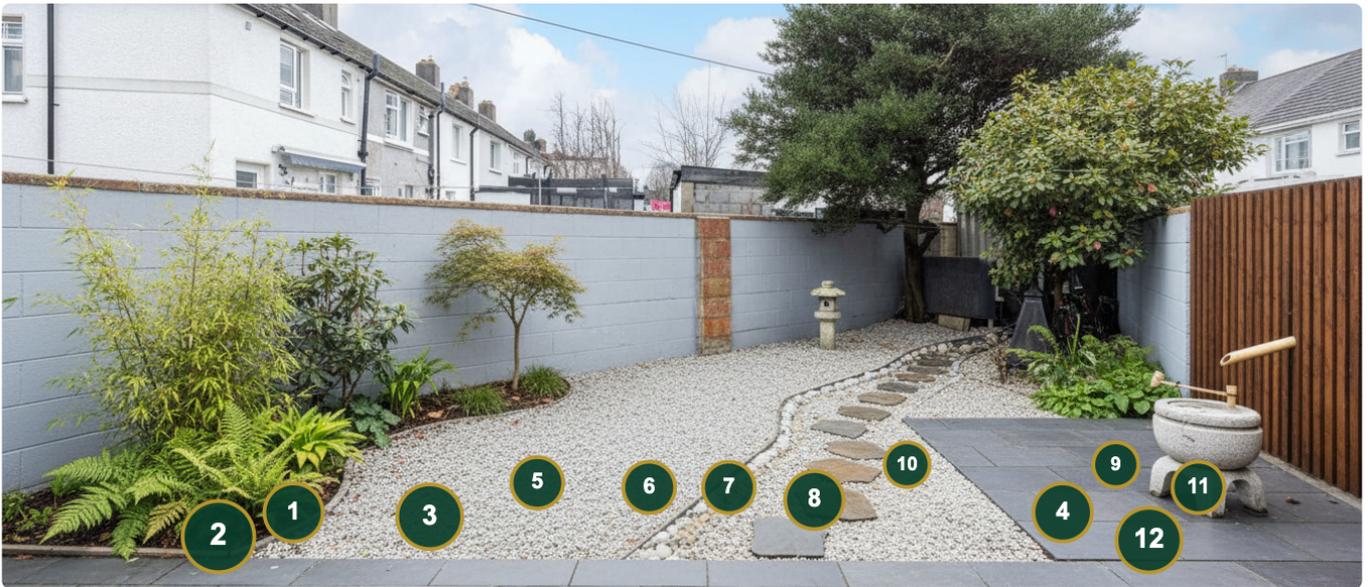


AFTER — DESIGN RENDER



**C — Grid Reference Overlay: Plant Location Key**

Numbers on the render correspond to the plant schedule in Section 05. Grid columns A–F (left to right), rows 1–6 (top to bottom).



#	Grid	Botanical Name	Common Name	Layer
1	B3	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple	Understorey
2	A1	<i>Fargesia murielae</i>	Clumping Bamboo	Shrub
3	A2	<i>Rhododendron</i>	Early Rhododendron	Shrub
4	F3	<i>Camellia japonica</i>	Japanese Camellia	Shrub
5	A4	<i>Skimmia japonica</i>	Japanese Skimmia	Shrub
6	C4	<i>Hakonechloa macra</i>	Japanese Forest Grass	Ground
7	D4	<i>Ophiopogon planiscapus</i>	Black Mondo Grass	Ground
8	A3	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield Fern	Ground
9	F5	<i>Hosta</i>	Plantain Lily	Ground

10	C5	<b>Sagina subulata</b>	Irish Moss	Ground
11	F4	<b>Azalea japonica</b>	Japanese Azalea	Shrub
12	F2	<b>Soleirolia soleirolii</b>	Mind-your-own-business	Ground

**D — Plant Data Reference**

Botanical Name	Sun	Water	Growth	Hardiness
<b>Acer palmatum</b>	Partial Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H6 / USDA 5a
<b>Fargesia murielae</b>	Partial Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H6 / USDA 5a
<b>Rhododendron</b>	Partial Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H4 / USDA 6a
<b>Camellia japonica</b>	Partial Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H4 / USDA 7a
<b>Skimmia japonica</b>	Partial Shade	Low	Slow	RHS H5 / USDA 7a
<b>Hakonechloa macra</b>	Partial Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H7 / USDA 5a
<b>Ophiopogon planiscapus</b>	Partial Shade	Low	Slow	RHS H5 / USDA 6a
<b>Polystichum setiferum</b>	Full Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H6 / USDA 6a
<b>Hosta</b>	Partial Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H7 / USDA 3a
<b>Sagina subulata</b>	Partial Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H4 / USDA 4a
<b>Azalea japonica</b>	Partial Shade	Moderate	Moderate	RHS H5 / USDA 6a
<b>Soleirolia soleirolii</b>	Partial Shade	High	Fast	RHS H3 / USDA 8a

**E — Notes & Caveats**

- Assumed soil pH is neutral to slightly acidic, suitable for proposed plants. A soil test is recommended.
- The condition of existing trees along the right boundary is assumed to be good enough for retention with pruning.
- Access for bulk material delivery is assumed to be feasible through the front of the property, despite the narrow garden width.
- The exact location and size of existing utility lines (e.g., overhead wires) are not fully accounted for in the design but would need to be considered during implementation.

Design confidence score: 95% — based on image clarity and available site data.