



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

PRESENTED BY



BALCONY GARDEN COMPETITION

INTRODUCTION

2024 will see the 3rd edition of the Balcony Garden competition. Having launched at the 2022 Show, the competition aligned with the emergence of small space gardening in typical Australian lifestyle. Being without a traditional backyard no longer means we must be without a garden and the Balcony Gardens are once again set to profile small-space garden design.

The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) is proud to showcase garden designs of all shapes & sizes & adding this unique take on mini landscapes adds yet another creative twist to this world class event, injecting a new way of thinking about how we can enhance the space available to improve an individual's quality of life.

Winning an award at the Show is highly coveted &, profiled accordingly, has long-lasting benefits for the award-winning exhibitors.

MIFGS is the premier horticulture event in the southern hemisphere, attracting over 100,000 people during the five days of the event. The Competition presents an opportunity to showcase creativity, innovation & flair, with ultimate success providing a vehicle to promote your business.

Suitable applicants for this Competition are individuals that have:

- Basic horticultural understanding
- Ability to design an aesthetically pleasing space
- Creative flair
- Ability to safely install cladding, walls, or associated dressings to a structure

Support from additional groups such as construction teams, nurseries, and additional suppliers (furniture, pots, furnishings etc.) is encouraged to elevate the final display.

BRIEF

The Garden's express purpose will be to promote the principles of small space garden design, to prove you can have a beautifully crafted garden space without a large backyard.

These Gardens will be "outside the box" & unexpected by Show visitors. We are seeking designers who can transform a balcony into a designed, garden space transporting it's dwellers to an oasis right outside their door.

Designs will not simply consist of pot plants & hanging wall art, so come armed with your top-secret, space-making concepts & unique artistic flair to ensure you take home the top prize.

The final display is intended to be an indicative representation of the theme or concept of a larger balcony space. It does not need to be a fully functioning display, rather a glimpse into concept or theme. Despite this, innovative ways of making the most of the space i.e. storage, plant displays will be viewed favourably.

A Balcony Garden cannot sell products from the display.

Business, Sponsor and Partner branding, in the form of branded products, plant labelling and signage etc, is encouraged to enhance your display and brand awareness, **but may only be incorporated into the Balcony Garden after judging has been completed as the Gardens must remain anonymous for judging.**

KEY DATES

EVENT	2023
Steel framework and timber pallets available for collection	Friday 8 th March from 12pm
Onsite build commences (earliest day to redeliver collected framework)	Thursday 14 th March from 7am
Build to be completed	Tuesday 19 th March at 12:00pm
Judging	Tuesday 19 th March from 2:00pm
Winners announced	Wednesday 20 th March at Official Opening Function
Judges feedback	Thursday 21 st March from 9:00am – 11:00am (must be pre-booked)
Site pull down commences	Sunday 24 th March from 6:30pm to 9.00pm
Site pull down completed	Monday 25 th March by 5:00pm

****Times may be adjusted slightly in the lead up to the event**

APPLICATIONS

Expressions of Interest will close for the Balcony Garden Competition on Friday 9th December. Strong applications will include a general overview of their design plans and theming, with the inclusion of indicative layouts and plans encouraged.

Applicants will be notified of the result of their application in the fortnight following the deadline, with a briefing to be hosted in January 2024 to provide greater detail on the competition. An ordered waitlist will be created simultaneously if further opportunities arise.

THE AWARDS

Place	Awarded
First Place	\$1,000 cash prize and trophy awarded at the official opening function
Second Place	\$700 cash prize and trophy
Third Place	\$300 cash prize and trophy

Announcement

First place will be awarded their trophy and invited to attend (with an additional guest) the official opening breakfast function held on Wednesday 20th March 2023.

BUMP-IN & BUMP-OUT INFORMATION

Competitors are permitted to commence their bump-in at the Event from 7am on Thursday 14th March.

There will be vehicle access to park in vicinity of the Balcony Gardens location from the commencement of bump-in on Thursday 14th March until the conclusion of the build phase at 12:00pm on Tuesday 19th March.

All competitors must leave site after the conclusion of the build phase to allow for judging. If there is a need to return on that day for any purpose, this can be done so from 5:00pm.

Competitors will have two options available to them in the bump-in when it comes to the provided steel framework and pallets:

Option 1 – Competitors are permitted to collect their steel framework and pallets from the Show venue from 12pm on Friday 8th March or any day thereafter if they wish to perform any pre-work prior to the Show. Competitors will be responsible for organising the return delivery.

The final drop-off location will be available from 7am on Thursday 14th March onwards. Any earlier drop-off deliveries that are returned finished must be returned with the pallets and framework connected, and with the understanding the Balcony Garden structure would need to be moved by Event Management via forklift once the competition area is clear.

Competitors who access the steel framework prior but intend to install the pieces on site do not need to bring the items back connected.

Competitors will be liable for any damage occurring resulting from the pickup, delivery and handling of the steel framework and pallets.

Option 2 – If competitors do not wish to pick up the steel framework and pallets prior to the Show, the steel framework and pallets will be supplied near the designated position in time for the first day of the allowed on-site build, Tuesday 14th March.

Bump-out can commence from 5:30pm on Sunday 24th March. Vehicle access will not be permitted until after 6:30pm on this day. All steel framework and pallets will need to be completely clear of fixings, furniture, and all other competitor equipment by 5pm on Monday 25th March. All framework and pallets will remain with Event Management after the Show.

WHAT'S PROVIDED?

Structure

Each competitor will be provided with a 1165mm deep x 2330mm wide balcony style garden plot & steel framework. This will consist of a base of two timber pallets which will need to be joined side by side. It is the responsibility of each competitor to install the steel framework and secure it to the pallets.

In addition, two support beams will need to be installed to the rear of the steel framework for bracing purposes. This is the responsibility of each competitor and must be considered when applying any finishings to the exterior of the structure.

See final pages for steel structure render & specifications.

Build Considerations

The Balcony Garden will be viewed by the public as though they are standing in the apartment, looking out onto the Balcony Garden. Each competitor is required to finish the following balcony structural elements: internal side walls, roof internal and external (for weather protection), balcony balustrade internal and external side walls.

Competitors are expected to cover/hide all steel framework – paint, cladding or framing are all available options to achieve this.

Despite the framework provided being shaped as a traditional triangle roof gable, competitors are encouraged to consider showing creativity in the overall design shape for their Balcony Garden. Builds cannot go any higher than the peak of the gable on the steel framework, and no wider than the widest points of the diagonal roof angles, but elements such as a rounded or square roof can be considered in your design.

Lighting

Each garden will be fitted with a light to enhance the space for the Gardens by Twilight, Friday 22nd March. If you plan to install your own feature lighting please inform Event Management.

Power

Power will be available for you to access during bump in the general vicinity to your location (within 20m). It is your responsibility to bring any required extensions leads - all electrical equipment must be tested & tagged.

If you require power during the Show days for your own feature lighting, water features or other, please order your requirements via the **Power Order Form in the Exhibitor Manual**.

Flooring

Each competitor will be responsible for installing and securing any flooring they wish to include within their Balcony Garden. Your pallets will be provided, with competitors expected to consider the flooring of the space within their design (i.e. not leave pallets visible).

Signage

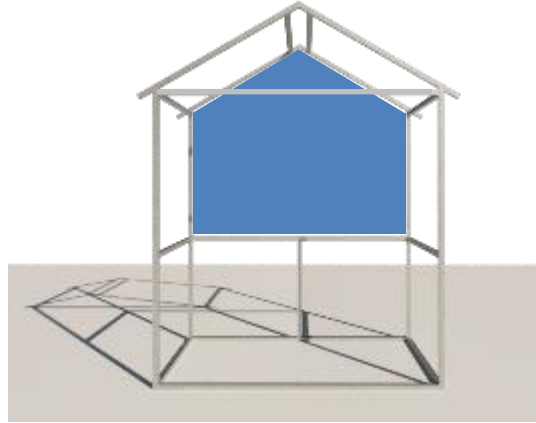
Outlook / View Signage - OPTIONAL

The brief for the Balcony Garden Competition competitors is to present a balcony garden that is viewed from within a property/apartment/unit. To enhance the ease at which competitors have in producing a display that showcases this, competitors may choose to print an "outlook/view" image to be installed in some or all of the rear section above the balcony balustrade, including (if desired) the roof gable (see blue area in below image for placement). Event Management will provide

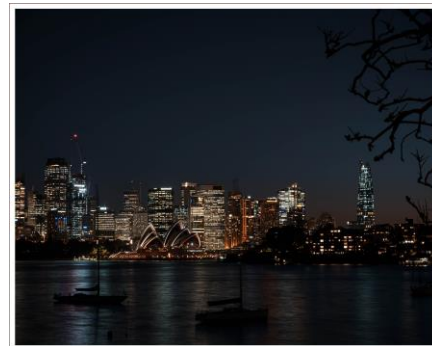
this signage free of charge to each Competitor, if required. **Competitors must supply the image file in the correct format by Friday 1st March.** Please note that the image must be high resolution – more will be explained on this closer to the submission date.

This image could be of a city view, a rainforest outlook, any view you wish visitors to enjoy while they observe your garden.

If you choose to clad, provide a natural backdrop (i.e trees) or close in this space instead please advise Event Management that you don't require the printed signage. If you wish to have a smaller, custom size outlook image printed please provide the specs at the same time as providing the image file.



Please refer to the two images provided below, with these images utilised by the 2nd & 3rd place getters from the 2023 event. 1st place chose to go without backdrop signage, which is an option available to all competitors.



2023 AWARD WINNERS

1st Place – **Escape to the Balcony** designed by **Rebecca Mitchell** for **Little Footprint Studios**



2nd Place – **City Sanctuary** designed by **Angelina Fox** for **Porch Envy**

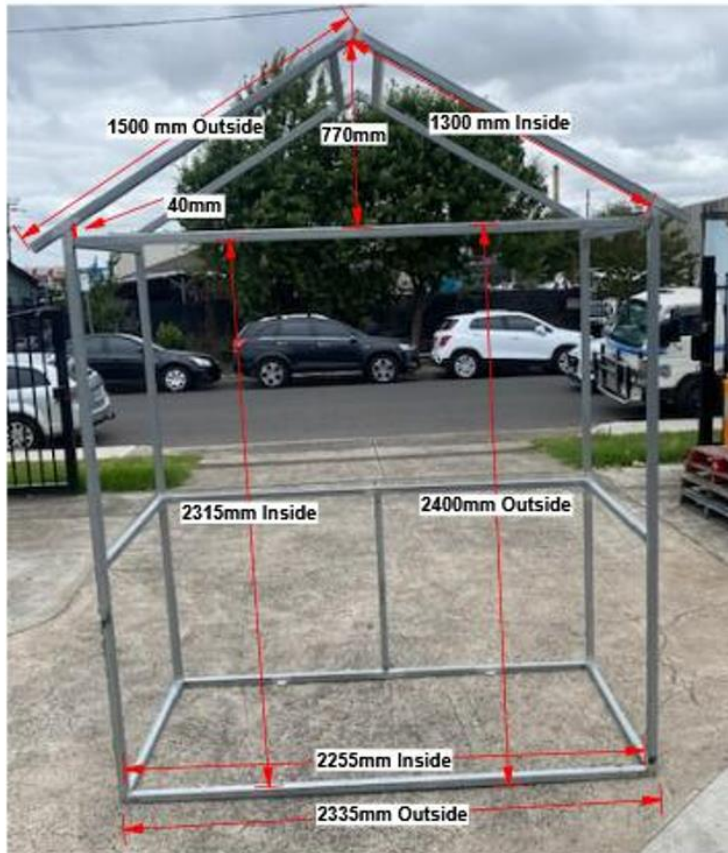


3rd Place – Mosman Hideaway designed by Mitchell Kushturian for Exotic Living



BALCONY GARDEN MEASUREMENTS

FRONT



SIDE



BACK

