



The old garden shed was an ugly duckling.



Next, the transformation to swan status.

BEFORE & AFTER

My large old, ugly garden shed was aching to have a makeover. Sitting at the bottom of the garden, out of sight, it has survived years of neglect and a pseudo-attic existence, filled with previous impulse buys and remnants of other careers. It's now reborn as a delightful place for guests to stay. The deck is an important part of the new ambience. It's as large as the space under the roof, so it virtually doubles the living space. Established trees and shrubs create privacy and provide a cooling green backdrop for living.

The deck of treated pine measures 7m by 3.5m. It has transformed unusable sloping land into a great outdoor entertaining space that flows naturally, linking inside and out. It's irregularly shaped to fit in with the existing landform.



good buys Adirondack chairs bought online from Ezibuy help set the romantic, relaxed theme with a hint of nostalgia. For pure comfort it's important to think about what type of shade-maker you're going to use. Here, a permanent shade device is not desirable because the rest of the garden is overshadowed by large trees, and a little suntrap in winter is always a joy. A market umbrella which can be easily moved around is ideal. This umbrella comes from Bunnings, the base from Freedom Furniture.



electric BBQ

An outdoor power point meant I could cook on the deck with this Black and Stone electric convection barbecue in stainless steel, \$599; folding stand is \$129.



pots with lots

Consider using a few different sizes of pots filled with seasonal colour like these petunias from Bunnings. They create a unified look that works well.

TIP: elevate pots on surface savers so you don't rot the timber underneath. They can range from pot feet to slim rings made from recycled plastic in 20cm, 25cm and 36cm diameters in terracotta or black. These have several small feet that elevate the pot above the deck, allowing moisture to evaporate quickly, and so preventing mildew, stains, timber warping and rot. They are virtually undetectable under pots but can support up to 200kg. They can also be used between a pot and saucer so the pot isn't sitting in water. The 20cm size is \$11.48; 36cm is \$22.48, from Bunnings.