



ratio:

We the Wild.



We the Wild explores the restorative power of time in nature.

Through invitation to design at the 2026 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, we translate the restorative energy and character of Victoria's southern coastline into small garden design.

The garden brings refuge and respite at individual scale yet considers Melbourne as a city of 8 million, where residential gardens contribute to urban cooling, support pollinators, and strengthen biodiversity within the broader landscape mosaic.

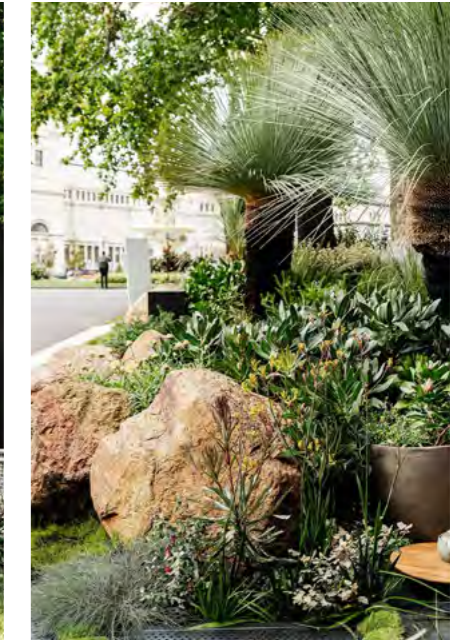
We the Wild was recognised with a Gold Medal, HMA Best Use of Plant Life and City of Melbourne Award for Best in Show.



The garden is set across three levels, maximising site topography to create areas of respite and reflection. The convergence of two path networks allows the garden to present on multiple frontages, to be viewed from elevation and immersed within.

Xanthorrhoea glauca (Blue Grass Tree) forms the foundation of our design and material selection. The blue grey foliage, bronze undercroft and black trunk replicates throughout the design, with yellow native perennials (*Xerochrysum* and *Chrysocephalum* ssp) directing the eye across the garden.

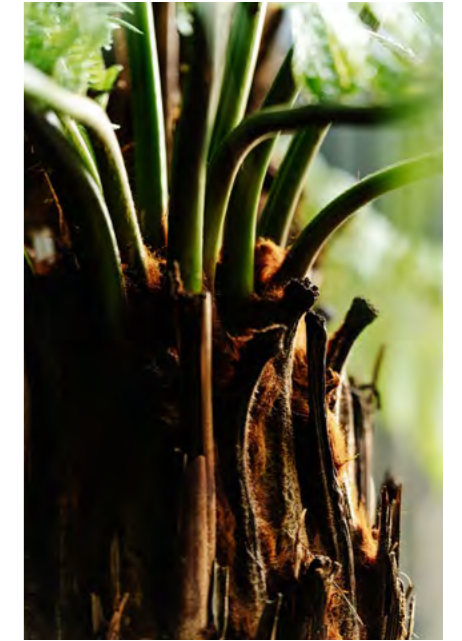
Dicksonia antarctica forms the signature tree in our living zone, encasing the living zone and sitting area. The huts nestle between the fernery, orientated to protect from the prevailing southwest winds and aligning views across Carlton Gardens.



Water is present throughout the garden supporting urban cooling and reflection of surrounding canopy. The main water body provides opportunity for summer bathing, whilst reflection and bird bathing serve the cooler months.

Granite boulders cluster throughout the garden, referencing the iconic boulders of Wilsons Promontory and the bronze undercroft of the grass trees. Their placement allowing the garden to blend beyond the site boundary, to provide informal seating, and to retain tiered levels.

Perforated steppers navigate through the garden and provide soft lighting as if lanterns floating.



A celebration of Australian native florals present a palette of blue grey foliage with masses of yellow and white daisies moving between the grass trees.

Banksia flowers reveal along the rockery whilst the seed heads of Kangaroo grass drape over the water body and dance lightly in the wind. Between the granite boulders everlasting daisies gather, and in lower light Plectranthus spreads underneath the fernery.

Recycled sugar gum rounds stack within the firewood store walls to further celebrate the bronze undercroft of the grass trees.



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land we work, live and travel on, and appreciate the rich cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their enduring connection to Country.

Melbourne
Wurundjeri Country

Geelong
Wadawurrung Country

Sydney
Gadigal Country

Brisbane
Jagera Country

Adelaide
Kaurna Country

Hobart
Nipaluna Country

mail@ratio.com.au