

Maroochy Arts and Ecology Centre Landscape theme

Garden Design: The Elements

The gardens adjacent to the building have been designed on the principle of the four elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water.



Earth

The Earth garden located on the north western corner of the building is focused on plants that provide food that is both suitable for wildlife and humans alike. A focal point in this design is a *Macadamia integrifolia* tree. The garden also includes an interpretational sculpture by local artist Richard Newport which features three local species of Macadamia.

Air

The principle of the plants used with in this part of the landscape is to reinforce through movement, sound or fragrance the role that wind has in our environment.

The garden is located on the northern side of the building directly in front of the multi-purpose room and reflects the open nature of this part of the building and the flow of air between this garden and the courtyard to the south of the building.

Plants used here such as the *Allocasaurina littoralis* (Black she-oak) emphasise movement and the sound that the movement of air makes as it travels through these trees.

Fire

The fire garden is located at the front entrance of the building and the design elements are tied together by a large basalt pipe laid horizontally on the ground.

Focusing on plants that require fire to survive, this small garden with its connection to volcanic derived basalt includes plants such as Xanthorrhoea, Themeda and Brachychiton, the gardens emblem.



Water

Located opposite the Fire garden, this garden is built around the pond and embankment. All the plants displayed here grow in moist environments such as rainforests or are plants that prefer damp or wet areas such as creeks and rivers.



This garden extends through a dry pebble creek and includes interpretative information on macro-invertebrates which are used as a measure for healthy waterways. Take the time to find the five water bugs.



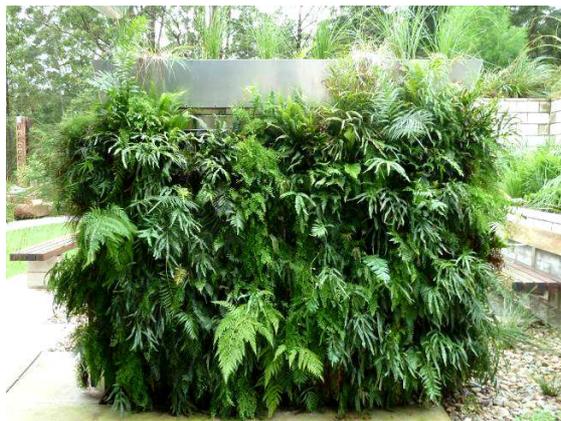
In addition to these four main themes several specific gardens have been included such as our Green Wall and our Japanese inspired Australian garden.

Green Wall Garden

Green walls can add internal or external vertical growing space for ornamental or edible plants, assist to oxygenate spaces, and add ambiance and art to your home or business

The Green wall used at the Art and Ecology building is a system specific vertical garden that provides for a different way to exhibit local native plants. The planter boxes are fixed to a rail attached to a masonry block wall. The plants utilised in the box are local ferns, grasses and ground covers.

The plants are placed into the soil media contained in the planter boxes.



For more information on Green walls:
<http://www.verticalgardenpatrickblanc.com/>

Japanese Tea Garden

The Japanese inspired garden located between the Greenwall and Courtyard utilises Australian native plants and is designed around the principle of a Soto Roji - outer tea garden. The Garden honours the friendship that exists between our sister city Tatabayashi and the Sunshine Coast region.



The Soto Roji is intended to lead the visitor on a journey away from the mundane world to a quiet and serene place and includes the following elements:

- stepping stones to slow the visitors' advance as they move into the garden
- a water basin for symbolic cleansing
- a waiting seat where the visitor rests and calms his mind while waiting to be invited into the inner tea garden (Uchi Roji)
- a light to guide the visitor

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