



MICHAEL WOODALL

Bathed in Blue

An empty space is transformed into an alfresco bath

THE SITUATION

The homeowner requested the addition of a private garden sanctuary for relaxation and bathing under the stars. In keeping with the style of the rest of the landscape, he wanted the setting to have a meditative, calming ambience.

THE PLAN

Walls would be erected to enclose the space and painted a shade of blue that mimics the night sky. A minimalist approach would be taken with the planting beds to complement the Zen-like feel of the adjacent garden.

THE DESIGN

An oval soaking tub was placed on hand-seeded aggregate flooring and surrounded by specimen plants. A rebar "window" provides subtle relief to an otherwise walled-in space and creates a sense of mystery and connection to the yard.

THE DETAILS

Growing in beds topped with Mexican beach pebbles are spineless Indian fig prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) and Mexican fence post cacti (*Pachycereus marginatus*). Their bold shapes provide striking contrast against the dark walls.