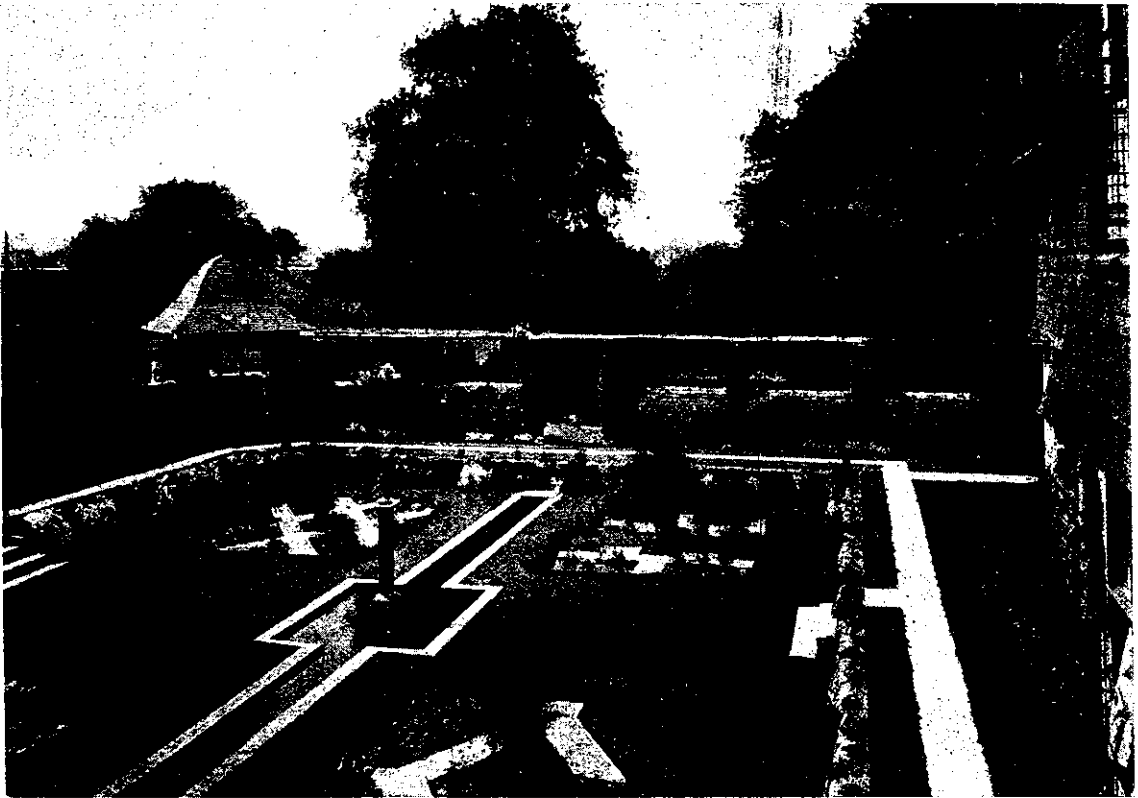# Architecture & Building

Architectural Gardening

By W. GRAY YOUNG

Being a paper read before the Wellington Branch fo the N.Z. Institute of Architects

Architectural Gardening is a phase of our profession to which a great deal of thought is being given, in England and elsewhere; and if we are going to keep abreast of the times, this is a subject we will have to devote more time to. Gardening has always been part of the profession of architecture, although little attention was given to it by the majority of the English architects of last century.

Gardening is not for houses only, as in some form or other it applies to all buildings, and we have to thank the town-planning campaign for bringing this more into the public view. One has only to look through some of the American professional magazines, to see how the approaches to the public build-ings are laid out with grass plots, trees, and occas-sionally, flower beds, while street architecture is often improved by window flower boxes. One can just imagine how a drab Wellington street front would look with Virginia creeper or red geranium on it. While our principal streets are much too nar-row for trees, I think some such treatment as this would give a freshness and colour to them, which is greatly to be desired. Another thing which could with profit be followed by some of our big commer-cial concerns would be to have boxes or tubs with bay trees in them placed in the vestibules of their offices. In this way a very good decorative effect would be gained. It is pleasing to note that a lead has already been made in the right direction by the Government in front of Parliament House and the old museum in Wellington where the grass and flowers have improved the appearance tre-mendously.

At the outset one must not run away with the idea that horticulture is the mainstay of garden

An example of a Sunk Garden in an English Home