

FIVE X FIVE SERIES (projects smaller than 25 sq.m.)

New Pergola: West End, Hampshire completed Summer 2008

This brick pillar pergola was built more than 50 years ago by the previous owner of the garden.

Over time the *Wisteria sinensis* had caused severe strain to part of the structure and despite a number of repairs over the years, the structure was in a seriously unstable state, with some collapsed pillars. My client was loathe to destroy the *Wisteria* and felt that the pergola structure was an interesting feature to have in the garden.

I proposed that we replace the whole structure and rebuild in oak with proper bracings and to a new, more balanced (cruciform) design. This would preserve the alignments of the pergola in relation to the rest of the garden and the interesting tiling and brickwork under the pergola.

At the same time, we gave the *Wisteria* a severe pruning so that it could be retrained to spread more evenly across the structure. Surrounding planting areas were largely unaffected by the works. The contractors worked closely with the client on site to develop the final details of the pergola design and the restorative pruning activity of the *Wisteria* in preparation for retraining over the structure.



< ^ **BEFORE:** This half-century old brick pillar pergola is slowly being crushed by the weight of the mature *Wisteria*



v> **AFTER:** the decision was taken to demolish the brick pillars and completely rebuild the pergola frame in oak, in a new, larger cruciform shape



CONTRACTORS:

Marc Waterman and Ollie Fletcher
07972 871291 and 07833 687779
watermanandfletcher@yahoo.co.uk