





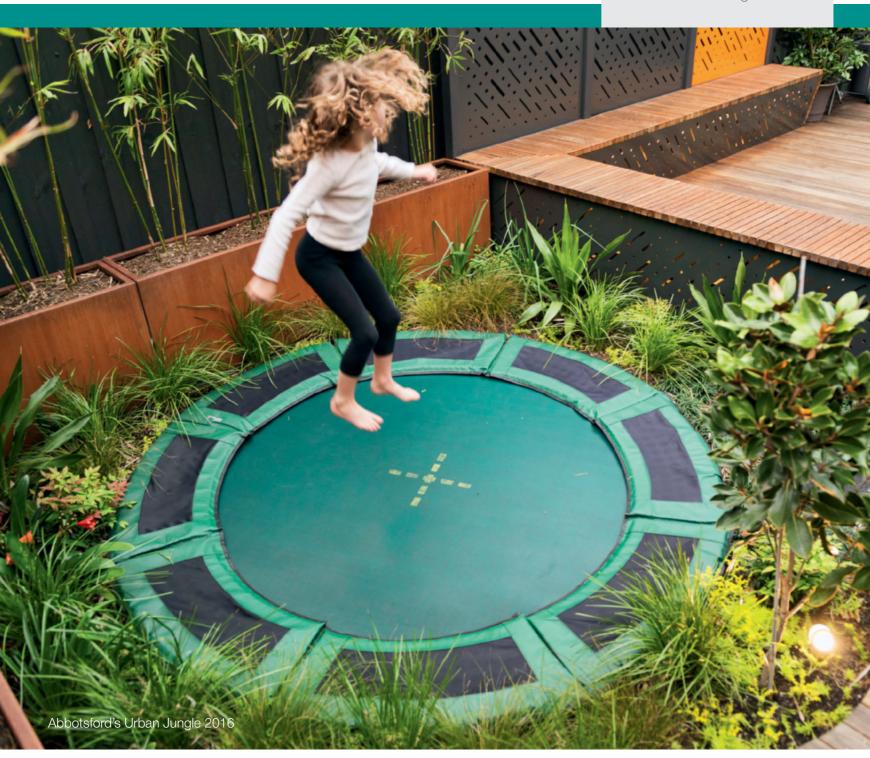


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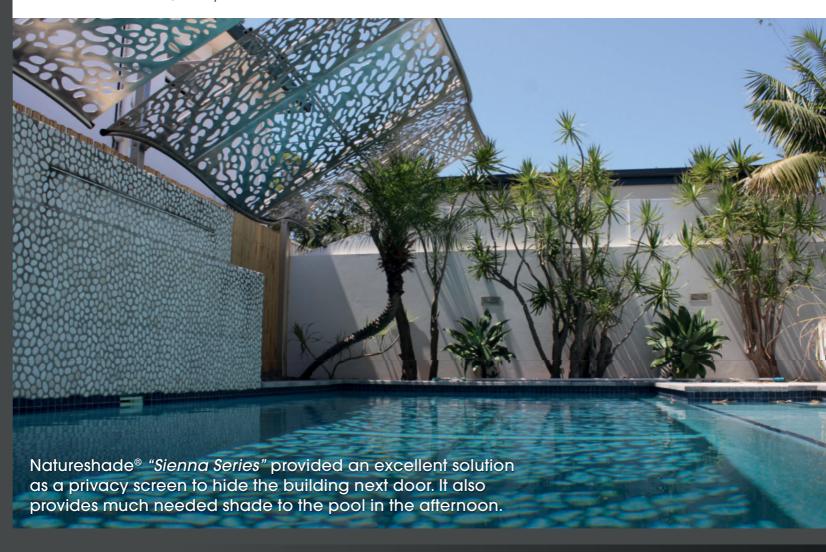


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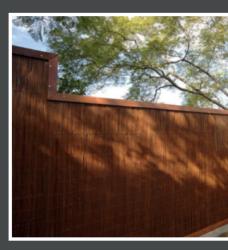
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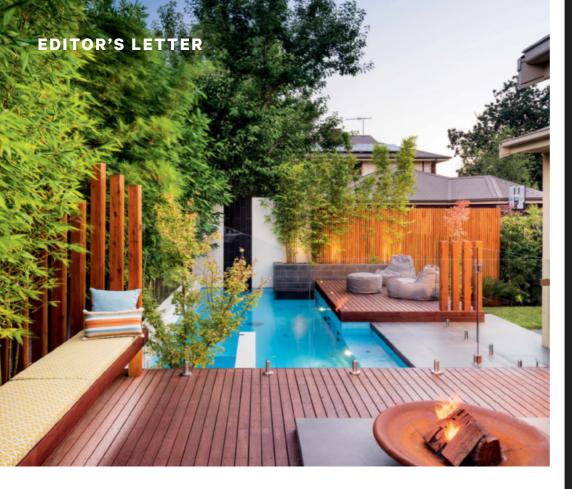


Interior and Exterior Inspirations...









editor's letter

ur love of spending time outdoors is nothing new. Nor is our fondness for barbecued fare. What has changed is our level of sophistication. As a nation, we love to travel and dine out, which means we're exposed to diverse cultures and cuisines. Now, when we entertain or cook outdoors, we demand a full-on gourmet experience — and we want it to be in a well furnished outdoor room-style space.

While the barbecue still holds centre stage, it's no longer the sole star of the show. Today it is likely to be part of an outdoor kitchen, where it shares billing with a sink, under-counter fridge and more. Or it might form a double-act with a woodfired oven. If you're planning an alfresco cooking area, our feature on the latest trends in barbecues and outdoor kitchens will give you plenty of inspiration as well as arming you with some practical information. We also take a close look at woodfired ovens. This form of cooking is a time-honoured method but it has undergone a renaissance in recent years as homeowners look for ways to add to the outdoor entertaining experience.

But whether you're considering a high-end cooking and dining space with all the bells

and whistles or something less ambitious, there are several essential elements you need to consider. An outdoor entertaining area is meant to be used and enjoyed on a regular basis. As such, it needs to be as functional, comfortable and thoughtfully designed as any indoor living space. And in many cases, it needs to be as flexible as possible, catering for casual get-togethers and more formal affairs, as well as day and evening soirees.

Providing shade is an all-important part of creating the perfect outdoor entertaining space. Protecting cooking areas with some kind of canopy is recommended and if you don't want guests to bake, having an awning or umbrella that can extend to cover diners is vital. Of course, some forms of shade are rainproof, too, extending their use throughout the year. How you decorate the space and the artworks you place in the garden surrounding the entertaining area — are also key to how appealing the space will be and how much enjoyment you will derive from it. We cover all of this, and a great deal more.

Kareu Karen Booth, Editor













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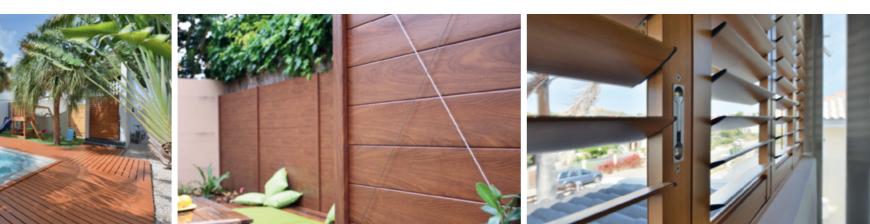
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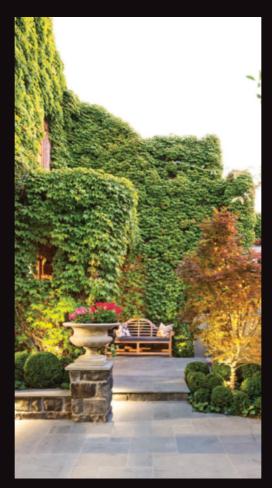


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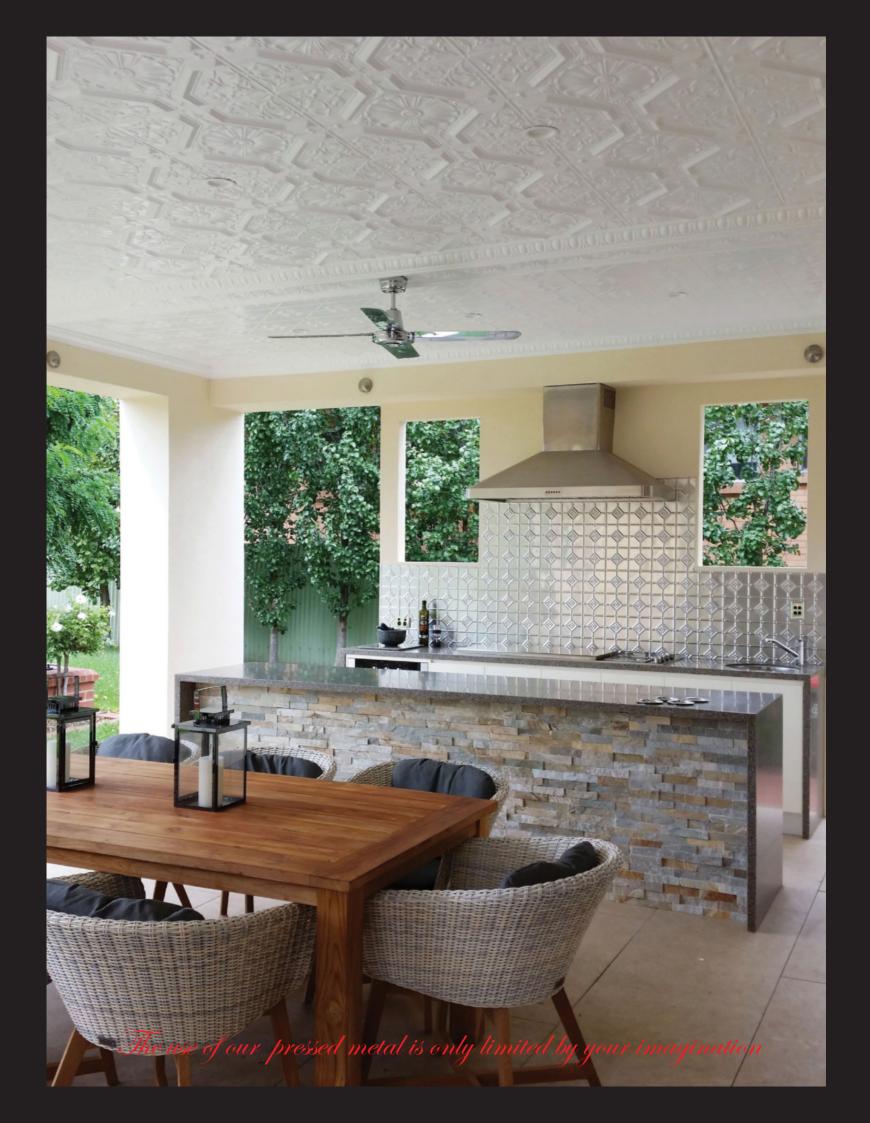
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bird land

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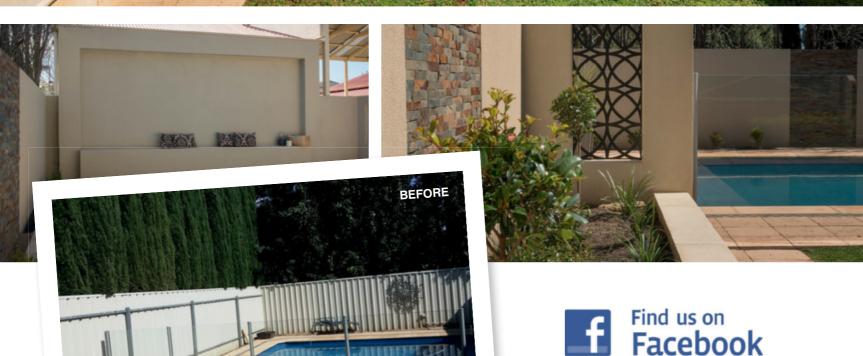
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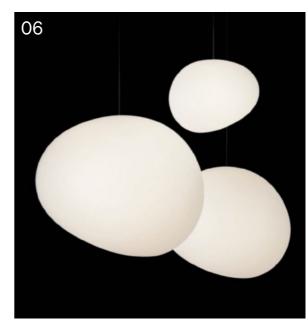


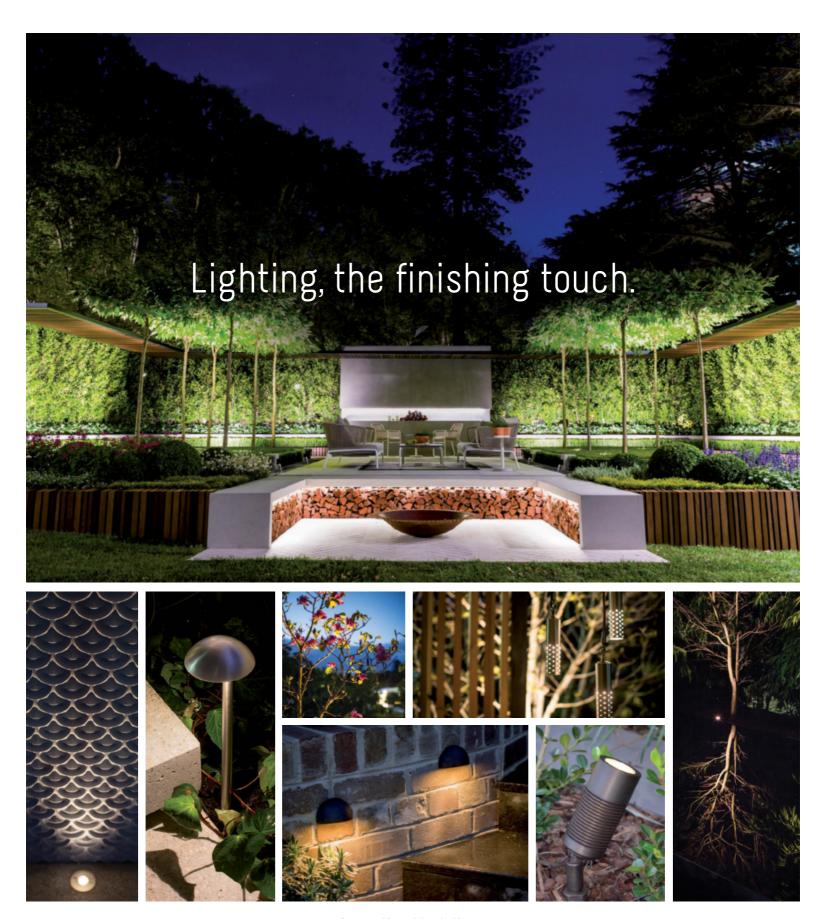


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01: Serralunga's white translucent Atmosfera lights from Martin Kellock Pots martinkellockpots.com.au 02: Serralunga's Cubotti illuminated planters from Martin Kellock Pots martinkellockpots.com.au 03: White Uto outdoor hanging lights, by Foscarini, from Space Furniture spacefurniture.com.au 04: Foscarini's Havana outdoor floor lights from Space Furniture spacefurniture.com.au 05: For indoors and outdoors, the Lumen lamp from Kindle Living kindleliving.com.au **06:** Foscarini's organic-shaped Gregg suspension lights $from \ \textbf{Space Furniture} \ space furniture.com. au$





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Creating outdoor living



If you need a home office, studio, gym or extra living space, your garden just might be the perfect location

Words: Karen Booth

here are countless benefits to working from home — no daily commute or annoying co-workers chief among them — but there can be challenges, too. For example, if you have a house full of children, getting peace and quiet in those tumultuous hours before and after school can be near impossible.

Building an office in the garden can be a great solution and it's one that increasing numbers of Australians are adopting. Your garden can provide a light-filled and serene space in which to work. In a large garden, an office can be nestled into the landscape and located some distance from the home, but even in smaller outdoor spaces, an office can be seamlessly integrated with a little care.

Some garden offices are pre-fabricated pods, some are converted shipping containers, others are custom-built structures, but they all offer the benefit of an office away from the noise and distraction of family life, not to mention a leafy outlook. Of course it's not just our home offices that are taking root in the garden. There are art and yoga studios, gyms, teenager retreats, and outdoor living spaces that double as a spare bedroom when guests come to stay.

SHEDS ARE CHIC

Women are now insisting they have a that space is out in the garden and it's talked-about novel, or simply relax in

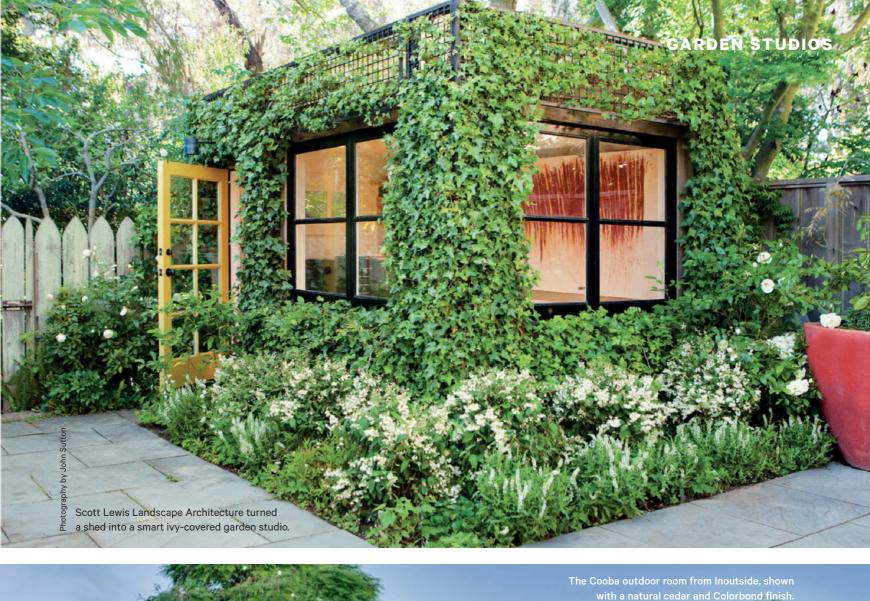
hole. Sheds can be custom-designed and custom-built but there are plenty

that appealing, you can do a lot with can erect a freestanding screen perhaps something in Corten steel with a laser-cut pattern or maybe something constructed out of timber or wood-look aluminium slats.

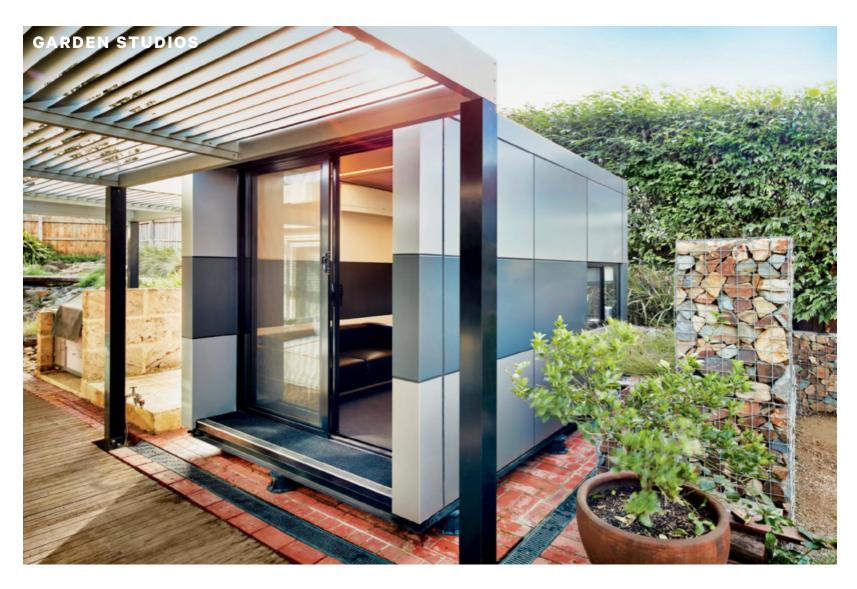
THE EASY LIFE

The growing interest in garden offices and backyard studios is mostly about convenience. "People are looking to make life easier," says landscape designer Phillip Withers of Phillip Withers Landscape Design. "It's also about finding ways to cost-effectively use the space they have and add value to their property. Some people just want a backyard office or studio because they want to be able to open it up to the garden and enjoy the sight of green-filled spaces. This ability to create a connection to plants and get away from the house is a winning combination for many."

"We are starting to see an increase in people who run their own businesses and many companies are beginning to see the positive benefits of staff working from a home office," says Tony Atkinson, director of Inoutside. "People are also attracted by the versatility. These sorts of home offices can be used for more than one purpose. I think the main reason for the increased popularity of these structures is that people want and need more space as their family grows and they want an adaptable space that might go from being an office to a rumpus room as needs change over the years."







ABOVE The Harwyn Duo is designed for two or for one person who wants some extra space.

Prefabricated units, from companies such as Inoutside, Harwyn and Archiblox, makers of the Backyard Room, are an easy and stylish option offering a broader range of design and material choice than you may think.

"When choosing a studio/office, consideration should be given to the level of finish, detailing, insulation (acoustic and thermal), what maintenance is required, if any, and if there are any hidden costs," says Jason Fremder, managing director of Harwyn. "Good design is good design. Choose a product that is stylish and contemporary unless you want the cabin look. Our pods are used widely as home offices, music rooms, play rooms, quest rooms and living quarters. There are standard configurations that we offer and customers can choose from a range of optional extras."

Repurposed shipping containers are another way to go. You can buy one and do the conversion yourself, but most people prefer to call on a company like Royal Wolf, which produces the Outdoor Room modified container with lighting, air-conditioning, timber flooring and glass sliding doors.

Custom-built structures are ideal if you have

a tricky site or particular needs, but whatever route you take, consider how adaptable the structure will be in five years' time. You may work on your own now but if you needed to fit a second worker, could you? And if you decide to retire, could your office easily become an art studio or a play space for the grandkids?

THINK AHEAD

If you want to build a permanent structure in your garden, the first thing is to check with council to see what planning permissions are needed — and even if a building permit isn't needed there will still be restrictions.

"Our units, for example, are class 10A structures so don't need approval, but there

are still guidelines that you will need to keep in mind governing such things as boundary off-sets and storm water connections," says Tony. "Also, you cannot build within one metre of easements. There might be other restrictions if you live in a heritage, flood, termite or fire zone. It's always best to check with your local council before you go ahead."

Philip adds, "I would then look to engage a landscape architect or designer as placing a permanent studio will affect the whole garden. You want someone who can help you determine how you can get the best use out of the office or studio, how it will sit within the garden and its relationship to the architecture of your home.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

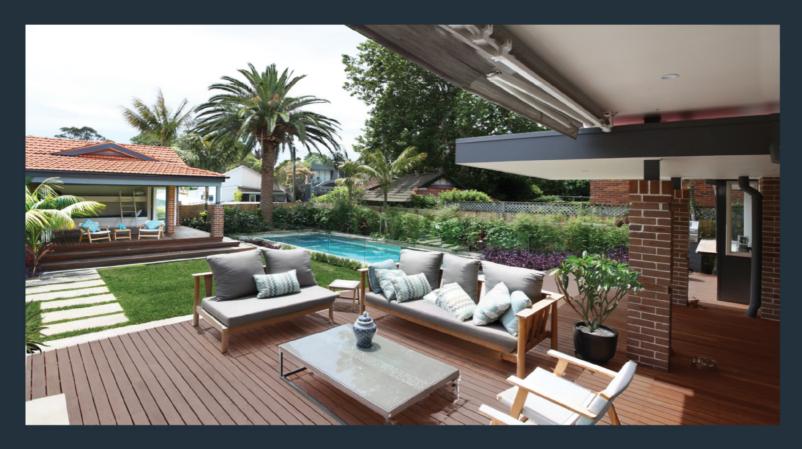
"Backyard studios and office pods have matured along with the changing nature of CEOs, running their personal employment many of today's businesses are operating. That's because technology is enabling people to work effectively and efficiently

he says. "It's much more cost-effective and productive to work from home. There's no long commute in traffic, no fuel and parking

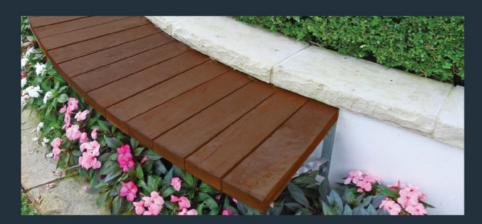
costs, and no office lease to pay for."

And with adult children living at home for outside might well be the only solution.

designs for outdoor living

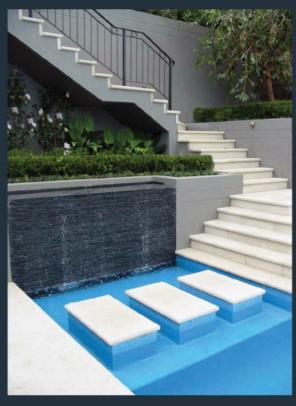


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"When thinking about the design of the studio and surrounding space, make sure you tick all the boxes so you capitalise on function. You might want the structure to look out or open onto the garden. Maybe it needs to be multi-functional, allowing enough room for the addition of gym equipment while still servicing the three people who may be working in the office on a daily basis. Or, perhaps, you want the studio to double as an extra bedroom."

TOTAL INTEGRATION

You don't want your new office/studio to look like it's been plonked in your garden as an afterthought, so the landscaping around it and the way it connects to other outdoor elements is vital. If you want to make the structure feel embraced by the garden,

introduce some garden beds nearby and some screening plants behind or to the side — the latter is also a great way to have a bit of privacy from neighbouring properties.

If you have lawn, having it sweep up to greet the structure helps to integrate it into the wider garden, but having to walk across that lawn to access the structure may not be ideal, especially when the ground is soggy after rain. A path that crosses through or runs beside the lawn is more practical. You may even want to cover the path with a solid-roofed arbor to enable all-weather use.

If your home has timber cladding or, say, a rendered finish, you might like to reference that in the facade of your studio. Makers of prefabricated units will each offer a different selection of exterior ABOVE LEFT A rustic-style artist's studio by Marian Long Landscape Architecture. ABOVE To create much-needed privacy, Paal Grant Designs in Landscaping used a laser-cut metal screen with a rust finish. **BELOW LEFT** Royal Wolf's Outdoor Room can be used as an office or as a workshop.

finishes. Inoutside, for example, uses cedar, render and Colorbond for its studios.

Adding a deck or an area of paving where a bench seat or a small table with chairs can go, extends the use of the office or studio and further connects it to the wider garden.

NOT JUST GRANNIES

There was a time when the words "granny flat" held little appeal, but that time has the new must-have for the modern home. Part of their popularity is due to the fact that they lend themselves to a variety of

They can be used as a family space gym. They also provide perfect guest lodging for the in-laws or a way to section off teenage sleepovers.

considerations is to locate and integrate the granny flat with the rest of the













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- **(b)** Choose a barbecue that suits your benchtops. Heatlie's Island Gourmet Elite can be installed into any type.
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OUTDOOR COOKING





Words: Karen Booth

f you're Australian and you like to cook and entertain outside, a barbecue will be at the top of your must-have list. If you like to entertain a lot, then you might go a step further and set up an "all the bells and whistles" outdoor kitchen. After all, having everything at your finger tips, which means no more dashing inside the house for this or that, translates to more time spent relaxing with family or chatting with friends.

Outdoor kitchens and well-equipped barbecue areas can be found in backyards all around Australia as people move out of their interior kitchens and into their gardens to entertain, says Ben Farley of Bar-Be School. And what is the focal point of these outdoor kitchens? That's right, the not-so-humble barbecue. Today, says Ben, families want barbecues that have the "wow factor".

STAYING ON TREND

If you want to have a barbecue that looks good and will cook your favourite fare, you need to know what's on offer. So what's hot in barbecues, you ask? According to John McGran from Lifestyle BBQs, the outdoor kitchen-style barbecue continues to grow in popularity. These are sophisticated barbecue units, sometimes available in modular configurations, which might include cabinets, a benchtop, a sink or a fridge.

In terms of materials, John believes stainless-steel cabinetry teamed with benchtops made of natural stone, such as granite, will remain in vogue. "These materials represent quality and durability, and they look great together," he says.

Inspired by the proliferation of TV cooking shows, people, says Ben, are keen to go beyond grilled snags or fish and are looking





for barbecues that offer a variety of cooking options, such as smoking. "Smoking is a simple technique that infuses meat with the flavour of your choice," he says. "Most barbecue-accessory shops sell smoke boxes and aromatic wood chips — you simply select the flavour you like. At the moment, hickory and apple wood are very popular."

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Today's barbecues come with all manner of add-ons and accessories. If you like stirfries and want a quick dish, a wok burner is a great idea. If you're a fan of teppanyaki cooking, then a teppanyaki plate would be a wise inclusion. Or perhaps you'd be more interested in a sear grate, fish basket, egg cooker, cast-iron prawn cooker, a chicken

wing rack, a corn cob holder, a hamburger basket or a sizzle plate? There is no shortage of optional extras to choose from. Just check out your nearest barbecue specialist or hardware store.

Not all accessories are costly or overly sophisticated — take the beer-can chicken roaster as an example, explains John. Costing from \$10 to \$35, the roaster holds a can of beer over which the chicken is placed. The beer boils and steams when the barbecue heats up, infusing the chicken with flavour and keeping it moist.

DOWN TO BASICS

But what about the barbecue itself? With so many different types of barbecues on the market, how do you know which is the right

LEFT A stylish custom-designed outdoor kitchen. Photo courtesy of Sublime Architectural Interiors. **BELOW LEFT** A compact barbecue for a limited space. Photo courtesy of Inge Jabara Landscapes.

one for you? "As a first step, consider how you will use the barbecue. Do you regularly entertain for large crowds, or will you use your barbecue for everyday family meals? These factors will determine the durability you require, the size of the cooking area and any extra features you may need, such as roasters and cabinet space," advises Andrea Mead from Heatlie.

"Next, think about where your barbecue will sit. A shiny, free-standing five- or six-burner complete with bottle opener, infrared burners, side tables and a host of bells and whistles makes a statement in any backyard, and may be the right option if your barbecue is going to sit on a patio or deck."

If you're shopping for a new barbecue to fit into a purpose-built outdoor kitchen, then consider whether you want a unit that is integrated into the bench or one that slides in from the front.

ENSURING LONGEVITY

All barbecues need to be thoroughly cleaned after use, so consider how easy it will be to rid the unit of grease and fat when making your decision. "Check how easily the barbecue plate can be cleaned with a flat scraper and consider the number of flat areas compared to grills and other added features — they may

CLOSE THAT LID

It's a commonly asked question: should you barbecue with the lid on? Jamie Purviance, author of Weber's Bible Barbecue, says: 'Whether using a charcoal barbecue or a gas barbecue, the lid is really important. It limits the amount of air getting to the fire, thus preventing flare-ups, and it helps to cook food on the top and bottom simultaneously. While the bottom of the food is almost always exposed to more intense heat, the lid reflects some heat down and speeds up the overall cooking time.

Plus, using the lid keeps the cooking grill at a higher temperature, giving you more conductive heat, which creates better searing and caramelisation. Finally, the lid traps all those good smoky aromas inside

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OUTDOOR COOKING



IT'S TOOL TIME

barbecue tool sets available, ranging from simple three-piece sets (spatula, tongs and fork) available from your local hardware store to more sophisticated 20-piece kits that include all the basic tools, plus lots thermometer so you can ensure food is cooked thoroughly and a marinade injector for really flavoursome barbecue cooking.

look good on the showroom floor but they are notorious for collecting fat and grime, which are often difficult to remove," says Andrea.

If your barbecue is part of an under-cover outdoor kitchen or is kept in a well-protected roofed outdoor area, that's great. If not, invest in a barbecue cover. This protects it from the elements and increases its longevity. Covers come in simple black or grey or you can opt for something bright or with a cheery pattern.

A yearly maintenance check is also recommended, preferably at the start of the holiday entertaining period, and if you're using a gas bottle, check it routinely for leaks. Basically, if you choose well from the outset and then invest a little time in regular maintenance, your new barbecue should see you through many a family get-together and summer soirée.





ADDING VALUE

Ultimately, an outdoor kitchen or an alfresco cooking area is about adding value — first to your lifestyle, but also to your property's resale price if you create something permanent that is well designed.

"People are realising their properties are worth a lot more than they thought," says John. "They don't mind spending \$50,000 on the outdoor entertaining area, which always includes a place to barbecue, because they know they'll get their money back. People want to spend more time at home so they can save for travel and holidays, and by having a great outdoor space they get more value out of their property."

If creating a full outdoor kitchen, it needs to be well designed for your individual needs and cooking style. It can be a considerable investment, especially if you incorporate hot and cold running water, cabinetry, heating, cooling, lighting and the like, so it is worth spending time with a suitably qualified designer to get things exactly how you want before embarking on the construction.

KITCHEN CUES

"When planning an outdoor kitchen, researched your options, set a realistic budget. As well as building materials and appliances such as a bar fridge and a barbecue, allow for tradespeople, floor coverings, shading and furniture.

to construct an outdoor enclosure, so check with the relevant authorities. If you do need local government approval, a professionally drawn plan will probably be needed," adds Andrea. benchtops will need to be protected from the elements. A roof over your deck or patio is a good idea, or perhaps



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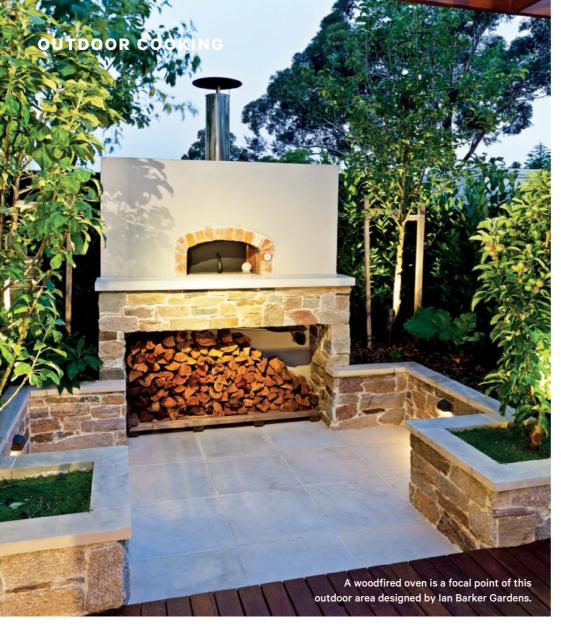
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fire it up

If you value variety, there's no better addition to an outdoor kitchen than a woodfired oven

Words: Karen Booth

or those who love to cook and give their guests the greatest range of taste sensations, a woodfired oven - either on its own or as part of an outdoor kitchen — is a fantastic idea. A woodfired oven is ideal for pizzas but it's just as suited to cooking slow-roasted lamb or tandoori chicken. Of course, the appeal doesn't end with the array of different dishes you can create. A woodfired oven adds a focal point — and ambience — when entertaining outdoors.

GROWING IN POPULARITY

Liz Fenton of Aussie Heatwave Fireplaces says the popularity of the woodfired oven has grown in tandem with the growth in popularity of the outdoor room. "Having an alfresco room lends itself to incorporating things such as a woodfired oven," she says. "With ever-

increasing house prices and high stamp duty, more and more people are deciding to renovate their homes instead of moving and outdoor entertaining areas and outdoor rooms have become the must-have extension.

"I also think the popularity of woodfired cooking is about a return to basics in this hi-tech world — people enjoy the romance and ritual of cooking with a woodfired oven," continues Liz. "Moreover, it's a very hands-on, social way to cook, making it something you can share and enjoy with friends and family.

"There's also no comparison between cooking with a woodfired oven as opposed to, say, a gas barbecue as woodfire cooking produces much more flavour. Woodfire cooking becomes a passion because it's not just for cooking pizzas. Anything that you'd cook in a normal oven or barbecue can be cooked in a woodfired oven — and it will taste better."

THE PRACTICALITIES

Woodfired ovens come in a range of sizes, styles and materials. Finishes vary too, but performance is what's most important. "A well-insulated oven is vital as the whole idea is to keep the heat inside the oven in order to reach high cooking temperatures. Pizzas, for example, require approximately 400°C and if your oven isn't well insulated it won't ever achieve these temperatures," says Liz.

It makes sense to place your woodfired oven in or close to your outdoor entertaining area where there's plenty of room for quests to gather and be involved in the cooking process. When choosing the location, be mindful of the distance from walls and combustible surfaces, and your roof penetration for the flue.

On the subject of cleaning your oven, Liz says, "Woodfired ovens actually clean themselves to a large extent as at the highest temperatures the inside of the oven will go white hot and any cooking fats and oils will be completely incinerated and disappear. Any remaining ash is simply swept out of the oven after use and can be put on your garden to fertilise the plants."



BUILT IN OR PORTABLE?

Today, many woodfired ovens are built in, with design, construction and venting. While it's common to have a woodfired oven integrated into an outdoor kitchen, it can certainly stand alone if you prefer. Another option is to buy a woodfired oven a suitable bench surface. The advantage also, they can be positioned where needed

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ABOVE Serve grilled food in style with Villeroy & Boch's BBQ Passion and Ultimate collections.

Words: Karen Booth

erving an alfresco meal and setting an outdoor dining table are now a much more refined affair, thanks to a market flooded with chic products specifically aimed at the outdoor entertainer. Servingware, crockery and cutlery, table runners and napkins ... if you need it for your outdoor table, you can find it.

PAPER OR PLASTIC?

The range of plastic serving and drinkware has grown remarkably. Some glasses and tumblers are vividly coloured and lots of fun, such as the offerings from SunnyLife, while others are more sophisticated in design, such as the Mark Newson moulded plastic Unbreakable Drinkware Collection. In terms of plates, platters, trays and bowls, heatresistant, shatterproof melamine crosses all price points and includes designer ranges such as French Bull and Kate Spade.

If you want to travel the no-washing-to-do route, paper plates and cups are the way to go, as are paper napkins and placemats. You can have a lot of fun with paper products thanks to the plethora of designs, ranging from anchors to apples and from stripes to spots.

CHOOSE ELEGANCE

Although non-breakables are good, there's no need to bypass more traditional table and servingware. Glasses made of actual glass add a certain elegance, and plates and dishes made of earthenware or porcelain bring an element of class. In fact, some companies are extending their ranges to cater to the increased demand for more upmarket outdoor needs.

A case in point is Villeroy & Boch, whose recently released BBQ Passion and Ultimate collections contain a selection of porcelain platters, plates and serving trays that can take you straight from the barbecue to the table.

LOOK TO NATURE

Bamboo is a popular choice for everything from salad tongs and bowls to serving platters and condiment caddies. It's a winner for style and sustainability but if you want to be really eco-conscious, you can find fully biodegradable tableware. Looking a little like stoneware, the Zuperzozial collection is made out of bamboo and corn and can be composted at the end of its life.

And don't forget timber. There is a plethora of wooden salad servers, bowls, platters, cheese boards and serving trays, all of which add some natural charm and visual warmth to the outdoor dining experience.

DESIGNER FLAIR

Dressing your outdoor dining table is also part of the fun. You can lay your table with a cotton tablecloth or use table runners or placemats made out of cork or bamboo. If you like to recycle, old glass jars can be repurposed as vases and placed in a line down the centre of your table. For those who love industrial chic, vases, plant pots and candleholders cast out of concrete are very much in voque.

Lamp-style lights, lanterns and candles are another way to dress a table and, of course, add ambience at night. There are even lighting options specifically designed for the outdoor table, like the solar-charged SunLight table lamp from Eva Solo.

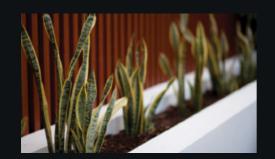


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artistic touch

Create the perfect ambience for outdoor living with the latest alfresco art and garden decor

Words: Carrol Baker

ant to add a hint of glamour to an outdoor space? How about making a bold statement in your garden with a unique sculpture, or perhaps you just want to enliven a drab corner on your deck with some vibrant wall art.

Many outdoor spaces are extensions of your favourite rooms inside, and just like indoors, art can infuse life and colour into your outdoor areas. With modern art in its many forms, you can turn the ordinary into the extraordinary, just by using a little bit of imagination.

REFLECT YOURSELF

A piece of outdoor art or garden decor is a reflection of your personality — it can add a distinctive individual touch to your outdoor living areas. Because art is a unique expression of who you are, why not get really creative in selecting your artwork?

No matter what style of art you choose, it's important that it harmonises with other design elements. "Art needs to be sympathetic to the landscape design and composition," says

landscape architect Ben Scott of Ben Scott Garden Design. "It not only needs to talk to the rest of the landscape, it should also work in with the style of the house and other materials being used in the garden."

SPOILED FOR CHOICE

Contemporary outdoor artworks are wideranging. There are sculptures, water features, garden arches, decorative pots, light boxes, garden mirrors, laser-cut screens, outdoor canvases, wall plaques and more.

When deciding what type of decor is right for the space you have in mind, you need to factor in proportions and the scale of the area, says Ben. Is it large or small? If it's a smaller outdoor spot you can still indulge your passion for art without losing precious space. "Mirrors work well in small areas. They open them up and provide depth," says Ben. Outdoor wall plaques and laser-cut screens are other options.

And if you have a larger outdoor area, you need to think big. "It's about the shape of the piece in more expansive spaces; upward forms can work well in large areas," he says.



TOP To add a splash of drama, BLAC chose the Cube sculpture made by Lump Sculpture Studio. **ABOVE** Designed by COS Design, this entrance garden employs a water feature as a focal point. OPPOSITE Light boxes are the focus of this COS Design garden constructed by Esjay Landscapes.







MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

Before you choose your new garden art, think about how it will be viewed. "Will you be getting up close and personal with it?" asks landscape architect Nick Kennedy of Art in Green. "Will it be viewed from a distance or from one angle? Will you be moving around the piece or viewing it from certain windows of the house or other outdoor areas?"

Also ask yourself what kind of mood you want to set. "Art can define if it's a lively space or a relaxing space. It can set the mood depending on its shape, colour and form," says Nick. To create a more dynamic look, opt for a vibrantly coloured canvas; for a relaxing zone, try a cool, calming water feature in black or charcoal.

"How will the art work within the space? What story is it trying to tell? Art can be restrained, bold or dramatic," says Nick. "It can also have a few subtle elements that are more like discoveries in the landscape," he adds.

BOXING CLEVER

Trends come and go but one that is holding its own is the light box. These generally have lasercut designs and are available in a wide range of materials, including Corten steel, stainless steel, aluminium and powder-coated steel. Light boxes are powered by low-voltage lighting and add a warm inviting atmosphere and soft subtle glow to your outdoor areas.

This form of art can be a unique talking point, as well as functional, says Nick. "Some light boxes can serve as screens dividing outdoor rooms, or create privacy from neighbouring homes," he explains.

Also popular are contemporary box-frame canvas prints. Weather-resistant technology that incorporates special paints means artworks are suited for exterior use. They won't fade in the harsh sunlight, or mildew in damp conditions.

ARTWORKS OF METAL

Metal art in its many forms is another ongoing trend. Some metal art is of sleek stainless steel with a curved flowing form for a modern look. Other metal art sculptures are more rustic or traditional, or they're sculpted from foraged items such as old farm equipment, tools, even kitchen utensils. A new trend in metal art is a

mix of classical design blended with elements of modern art, according to Nick.

"We are also seeing new things such as moving sculptures. It might be a wind-powered stainless mobile with a modern edge or elements with abstract form that spin in the wind," he says. Also popular are patterned metal screens for attaching to walls or use as privacy elements or room dividers.

WONDER OF WATER

Justin Bajada from Origin Landscapes says water features are not only aesthetically appealing, they can set the mood of an outdoor space. "Some water features add a touch of drama, others an aura of tranquillity, depending on the scale, the way the water flows and the sound it makes," he says.

A water feature may also reduce the temperature of the surrounding area, which is a great idea to help you keep cool on hot summer days. "This cooling effect from the interplay between air and water can be of great benefit to both inside and outside a home, particularly when utilised in courtyards or house entrance areas," says Justin.

Water features can be custom-made or pre-manufactured. Some are wall-mounted, perhaps fitted as part of a swimming pool, or they stand alone as an individual piece of garden art. On a smaller scale, you may want a portable fountain or feature to highlight a table top or corner of your balcony.

CLOCKS AND MIRRORS

Outdoor clocks are a relatively new addition to entertaining spaces but they are making a big impact. Always source quality timepieces that come with a warranty and are designed and crafted to withstand the rigours of outdoor use. Choose from ageless antique-style timepieces or contemporary wall clocks made of metal or fetauring mosaic, timber or tile borders if you like something modern or colourful.

Outdoor mirrors bring light and add the illusion of space and depth. They can be purchased as one-off pieces or in multiples and can be angled or positioned to reflect your favourite garden areas or outdoor spaces, so you can enjoy them indoors, too. Buy pre-made, or have one custom-designed to suit your taste. Make a statement with scrolled wrought-iron designs on square or rectangular mirrors that overlay the mirror, or a sophisticated oval mirror with a decorative border.

But whatever you choose, be it a light box or sculpture, water feature or garden mirror there's no shortage of outdoor art and decor to transform and enliven your outdoor space.



ABOVE The focal point of this garden designed by Lisa Ellis Gardens is a bronze sculpture of a pear.

RAISE YOUR ECO CRED

their pieces of garden art and outdoor character of the piece, making it even

own special touch to their gardens and "a handmade piece will always give you a







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potted pleasure

Pots are a great decorating tool, bringing pops of colour and interesting textures into a space

Words: Karen Booth

rowing plants in pots gives you a means of having foliage and flowers in the smallest of spaces. Just as importantly, the pots can form part of an outdoor decorating scheme, adding colour accents and textural interest.

Pots can be used as features in their own



right and act as design focal points; they can be integrated into the background of a garden design or you can go a step further and use them for another purpose altogether, such as a water feature or piece of sculpture.

COLOUR COMBOS

If using your pot in the traditional way (as a home for plants), be sure the colour of the pot contrasts yet complements the colour of the foliage or flowers. Try picking an accent colour from the plant and use that. If you have a highly ornamental plant, opt for an unpatterned pot so it doesn't compete for attention.

One tried-and-tested way to organise plant colour combinations in pots is to use hues that are similar (for example, three different shades of pink or yellow with yellow-green and green). These combinations create a harmonious, calming effect. If you prefer, a more dramatic effect can be achieved by using complementary colours (those across from each other on the colour wheel, like blue with orange or yellow with purple) — the choice is yours.

MATERIAL MATTERS

There are plenty of materials to choose between. There is cast concrete, terrazzo (a concrete product ground and polished to expose the coloured aggregate), GRC (glassreinforced concrete), natural stone, plastic, poly-fibre, terracotta, ceramic and metal.

Terracotta is a traditional and timeless choice — you just need to seal the interior to prevent water loss. Glazed ceramic pots come in many shapes, colours and textures so you can mix and match to your heart's content. For a pot that will last, consider cast concrete, which can be painted in the colour of your choice and can have just about any finish.

When choosing a pot there are practical considerations, ranging from the eventual size of the plant that will be going into the container to issues of weight, waterproofing and manoeuvrability.

PLACEMENT AND PLANTS

Pots play a role in defining an outdoor design so placement is critical. Put them at entrances, the start of a path or in a previously drab corner. For a focal point, place a single pot against a feature wall; to divide a space or create a privacy screen, try a row of large pots with tall plants. When grouping pots, do so in uneven numbers.

For permanent plantings, choose those with a long flowering period (fuchsia, kalanchoe, geranium, impatiens). There are also many hardy architectural plants (cordyline, yucca, dracaena, agave) that look amazing year-round in a pot as they don't rely on flowers to make an impact. Just remember, when placing your pot, it needs to be in a spot that meets the plant's sunlight requirements.



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test your metal

To punctuate a garden design or transform an exterior wall, use laser-cut metal screens

Words: Karen Booth

he allure of laser-cut metal screens cannot be overstated. There really is something very compelling about the contrast between the strength of the metal and the typically delicate-looking,

quite intricate patterning of the laser cutting. Standing alone in a garden, fixed to a fence or backlit to create a magical nightscape, laser-cut screens can be found gracing all manner of gardens, from the highly contemporary to the charmingly rustic.



LEFT Here, Simon McCurdy Landscapes has integrated a metal screen into a water feature. BELOW LEFT Laser-cut screens can be used in myriad ways, including masking your fence.

You can arrange for a custom-designed, oneof-a-kind piece or avail yourself of something from the ever-growing collections from specialist design studios and retail outlets that stock a wide range of garden decor so you can create a fully coordinated look.

SIZE AND STYLE

While metal screens vary in size, the most common standard size is 2.4m high by 1.2m wide. That said, most manufacturers offer customised sizes upon request. A variety of metals is used, including mild steel, Corten steel (which has a weathered rust finish), stainless steel, aluminium, copper and brass.

Just as you have a choice of patterns, ranging from funky geometrical designs to charming botanical motifs, you have a choice of finishes. The options are plentiful and include brushed or polished stainless steel, powder-coated aluminium in any number of colours (white, black, orange etc), and mild steel with a rust finish.

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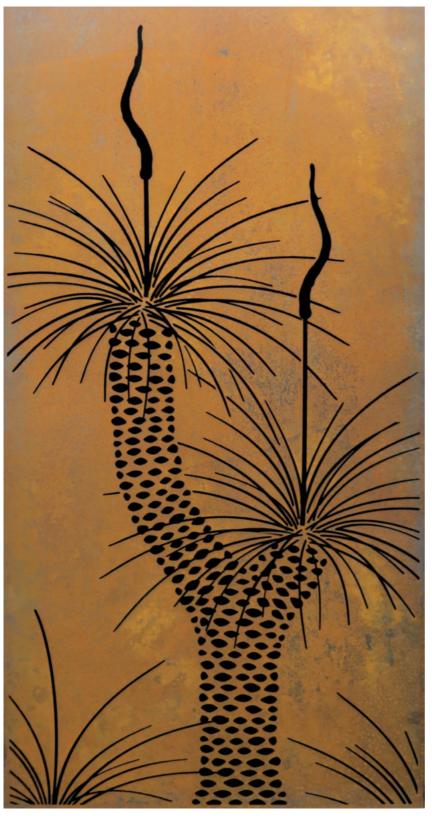
Metal screens can be used purely as a decorative feature, to make a space more private, or to delineate paces within a backyard. Laser-cut metal screens can be combined with LED strip lighting or they can be customised to be used as overheard canopies, privacy screens for windows, sliding balcony dividers, infills for doors and fencing, or a decorative feature recessed into a cut-out in a wall.

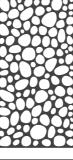
People love laser-cut steel screens for many reasons, but one of the main attractions is their versatility. And the fact that there is precious little maintenance required is a plus for many. Another bonus is that it's easy to coordinate your screens with other decorative elements in the garden, such as complementary metal wall art, planters and sculpture.

BE PRACTICAL

If buying a screen made of mild steel, look for one that has been zinc-plated after cutting and drilling. This ensures all the cut edges are properly rust-proofed. If the screen is to be powder-coated, this happens after the zinc plating.

When installing a steel screen with a rust finish, some of the rust colour will probably seep into the ground below for the first couple of months, so placing the screen directly on top of paving or decking is not the best idea. If you like the colour of rusted steel but not the idea of it leaching, consider a mild steel screen powdercoated to look like it has a rusted finish.















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front of house

Want to update your front garden? Here are some easy tips on how to make a great first impression

Words: Kate McKee

front garden is the first introduction any visitor or passerby will have of your home, so it makes sense to make sure it's a good one. After all, first impressions are important. Read on for some design tips that will have your front garden brimful of curb appeal in no time.

SIZE THINGS UP

Before you begin, it is always a good idea to take into account what you have to work with. Is your front area large or small? Do you need a car space or do you have a garage? Is the front garden on a slope or is it exposed to lots of passing traffic and therefore noise and air pollution? Giving some thought to your specific local environment can help the design process run smoothly and efficiently.

"In terms of design considerations, it will always depend on what the space is going to be used for, whether it's an open front yard or a more intimate private setting. Screening and fencing to cut down on road noise is also important, but not always required," says Tim Van Der Horst of Eden Landscape.

ASK YOURSELF

- Do you simply plan to walk through
- thumb, a gardening service can take the hassle out of maintenance and visit as little or often as needed.
- Is there anything you'd like to hide, such as a mains box or drain pipe? If so, plan perhaps, decorative screens.
- What have you already got to work with? Established trees or attractive shrubs can be incorporated into the new design.
- What sort of garden suits your house formal, cottage, native or minimalist? If your house has a modern facade, garden probably isn't the best choice.







MAKE IT FLOW

"Primarily a front garden must provide practical pedestrian access and vehicular connections if applicable. It's important that it flows well and is usable," says Johanna MacMinn of My Verandah. "The role of the front garden is also to buffer your home from the outside world and to provide a setting that shows your home in the best way."

When designing your front garden, pay heed to the architecture of your home so that the garden you create will work in harmony with the overall residence. You may also want similarities

between your front and back gardens to create a sense of unity and flow. "Front gardens tend to be on show and can set off your home to its best advantage by connecting it to its overall environment," explains Johanna.

FABULOUS FENCES

If you live on a busy street with high levels of foot or car traffic, tall fencing and screening can be your best friend. High fencing allows for privacy, and when paired with greenery such as climbers, trees or shrubs can cut down on noise pollution and act as a filter for air pollution.

"Fencing can be quite tricky as council laws around fence design vary widely all over Australia, but don't scrimp on the front fence as this is what will set off your street appeal,"

LIGHT THE WAY

LED bollards along your garden path and light entry stairs for ease of use. To create night-time focal points, use LED uplighting to draw attention to feature plants, trees and sculpture. You can also light ponds and water features.

Lights with automatic sensors can also be a great idea for when you are rummaging in your bag outside your front door for your keys. Outdoor lighting with motion detectors can also be used as a safety measure, scaring away potential intruders and giving peace of mind.

Mood or aesthetic lighting can enhance subtle accent lighting or feature lighting increase your enjoyment of your home.



ABOVE LEFT Plants perfectly frame the view of the house. Garden design by Style n' Simplicity. ABOVE In this entrance garden by Terry Francis Landscape Design, paths lead this way and that. BELOW LEFT Edible Eden Design used a curved pathway to give this front garden a relaxed flow.

says Tim. "One of the latest trends is vertical hardwood timber battens with small spacings, which is a modern take on the old-fashioned picket fence. This can look great with hedging plants behind to complete the privacy."

LAWN OR NO LAWN?

It's no secret that Australians love their lawns, but with sustainability a growing concern, are the days of natural turf coming to an end? If you live in an area prone to long periods without rain, or your front yard is short on space, paving may be your best bet. Mix things up with different types of paving, textures and colours to create interest.

"I am taking a lot of inspiration from the beautiful front gardens being designed in California, where water usage is an issue," says Johanna. "The lawn is out and a fantastic array of succulents is in, with a beautiful floor of pea gravel or decomposed granite. This has a wonderful effect, especially for mid-20thcentury homes."

Pebbles, river stones, crushed granite and locally quarried feature rocks mixed with native grasses and plantings seem to be right on trend, but for many, Australia's love affair with natural turf is here to stay so if you want lawn in your front garden, go for it.

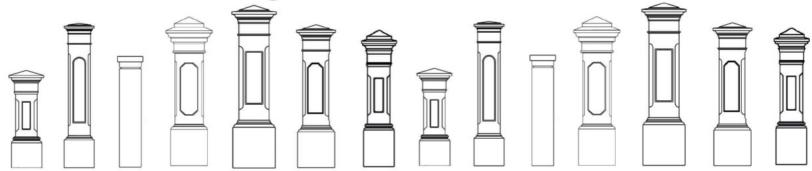




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TOP Here, formal and informal elements work in harmony. Design by Jane Jones Landscapes.

TAKE A HARD LINE

Be it for a driveway, footpath, steps or boundary wall, there are myriad hardscape options for you to choose from, ranging from stone pavers to poured concrete.

"My preference is to always go for natural materials such as natural stone," says Tim. "I prefer bluestone, granite or sandstone as opposed to concrete, although concrete can really set off a contemporary home. Another option is timber boardwalks or decking. Timber decking can work really well if you have elevation. A series of timber platforms at various heights leading you to the front door will give your space extra oomph."

A good way to create interest and break up hardscapes is to add some greenery into the mix. Bluestone slab off-cuts can make

ABOVE This traditional front garden by Franklin Landscape & Design complements the home.

for a striking front path, especially when paired with pebbles and hardy, low-growing plantings such as mondo grass. Or break up natural turf with organically shaped large-format pavers that lead to the front door.

PLANTING PALETTES

When it comes to landscaping, plant choice depends on the style of your garden and how much time you are prepared to put into it. For a more formal affair, neutral pavers, immaculately trimmed grass and neatly manicured shrubs, evergreen hedges and small fruit trees can look sophisticated but will need upkeep.

For a modern garden, large-format pavers paired with a few streamlined architectural plantings create a striking look. Straightedged planters adorned with bird of paradise, cycads, ferns or palms can add a contemporary structural element to your greenscape.

For a more low-maintenance approach, opt for plants that are specifically suited to the climate, such as Australian native grasses, or choose native plants that fit with your locality.

COLOUR AND INTEREST

"Remember to add pops of colour with flowering plants, regardless of the style of garden," says Tim. Or for interest and aroma you can add your own cook's garden if you are short of space out the back. Herbs such as rosemary, oregano, thyme and parsley are all durable and attractive plants to have front of house and can be very effective in pots or as border plantings.

Low-growing, easy-care succulents can make for a stunning groundcover and an alternative to turf or having an abundance of planters. Varieties of Sempervivum, Senecio serpens and Echeveria look wonderful and don't require a lot of maintenance. Plants can also be used for decorative as well as practical purposes, such as bamboo for screening or trees and climbers for shading purposes.

FIND YOUR PATH

To lead the eye to the front door and ensure ease of access, introduce a garden path that is wide enough for two people to comfortably walk side by side. When choosing the route of the path, consider where the most traffic comes from and what the most direct route is. If you have a front gate and a side driveway, it might be a good idea to have a split path that comes in from two directions and then joins into one just before the front door.

If you have the space, consider laying an extra square metre or so of paving at the front door to accommodate a group of people gathering to say hello and goodbye. Also think about the comfort of visitors to your home so avoid plants around the path that have thorns or a lot of pollen.

Follow these tips and your will have a front garden that will make you want to come home - and make your neighbours green with envy.

MAKE A STATEMENT

flagstone and pavers; these materials will lend more character and charm to your garden than traditional cement," says Matt Leacy of Landart Landscapes + Pools. "Adding a slight curve to the conventional pathway is another great way to make a chic statement," he continues. Matt also recommends lining the walkway with lowmaintenance plants such as camellias, lomandras and bird of paradise.

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OUTDOOR DESIGN





dare to imagine

Creating a garden your children will love can be as much fun for you as it is for the littlies

Words: Peter Shaw

ere's a fact. Making a garden for children has a lot in common with making a garden for adults. Regardless of age, we all welcome northern sunshine, shelter from prevailing winds, and outdoor spaces filled with natural materials and plants. But here's another fact - children grow quickly and as they change, so does the way they interact with a garden. This forces us to plan gardens for children that are adaptive and flexible. In other words, the sand pit you build for your toddler could, 10 years later, easily morph into your teenager's fire pit zone.

Since thinking this far ahead can be daunting, here's a little mantra to make it easy. Whatever you're planning for your child, check that you'd equally enjoy being in the space. Also, use natural materials, not only to boost the tactile experience but to make the garden a beautiful place.

And be reassured that store-bought bigticket items — the brightly powder-coated swing set or fairytale cubby house — are not mandatory. Apart from being an eyesore,

they're often ignored by children after the first week or so, which makes them an expensive mistake. So let's take a look at what does work for children in the garden and why.

LOVE THAT LAWN

An area covered in turf is a brilliant surface for play. Very young children will happily crawl then take their first steps on a lawn. Older children will use a turfed area to play ball sports. The lawn is also the place to set up a tent or build a temporary cubby with sheets and the drying rack.

You can even take a flat lawn and put an extra play dimension into it by doing what we did at home: we took the lawn and divided it into a series of soft, interconnected mounds in varying heights so that now, just walking across our lawn is fun, or lying in the valleys between to read a book is fun, or sitting on top, or playing with the dog, or rolling around.

It's worth noting that when any larger lawn is no longer needed, you can easily reduce its size by deepening the garden beds around it's perimeter, or by paving around it and setting out new garden beds.

ABOVE LEFT A concrete lizard seat in this garden designed by Crafted Landscapes is endless fun for kids and adults alike. ABOVE RIGHT Sometimes simple is best. A tyre swing is a favourite with the kids in this garden by Versatile Landscapes.

STUFF TO PLAY WITH

One of the reasons the instant swing set isn't often successful long-term is because it is a static item. Apart from the thrill of the day when your child helps you assemble it, it remains the same. Engrossing, thrilling, ongoing and everchanging play comes directly from your child's imagination. If you give them materials to work with, the games get even better.

Keep a collection of lightweight timber and branches on hand and watch these shift and change to become cubbies, boats, bridges, whatever. Plastic crates are equally useful and if you have a few of them, they'll turn into towers, cupboards, cars — you get the picture. Even the wood mulch underfoot, or the river rock mulch on the feature beds, will find their way into games.

Careful placement of large boulders in a landscape provides a focus for play. They may offer opportunities to step across a planted space, or act as an island in a sea of waving clumping grass. Of course, soft-fall mulch around these is a good idea. Looking to the future, the rocks aren't easily moved — which is why you must place them thoughtfully in









the first place — but the other, lighter bits and pieces are inexpensive and easily recycled.

MAGIC OF WATER

Children and adults equally find water appealing. Adults usually prefer it clean and contained, but children often want to get wet and muddy with it. A young child's idea of bliss is a bowl of water next to the sandpit with permission to make a mess. Older children would be thrilled to help make and play in a watercourse.

A man-made, natural-looking creek is straight-forward to construct if you have a slight slope with a small tank at the highest point and a recirculation pump. Dig a shallow stream then lay a liner sheet covered with river rocks. You can then disguise the edges with plants and turn on the pump whenever you want a rippling stream. Later, the stream can be dismantled or left as part of the permanent landscape.

QUICK TIPS

- A single pallet placed on a lawn is a
- straight sticks tied at the top.
- great materials to pull together,
- Chalk on any surface is brilliant.
 Gather together a heap of branches and watch your children make a temporary cubby
- Collect empty crates or boxes and
- settings for play.
- sinks and even an old microwave.

LEFT Use found branches to create a magical play space for the kids. Design by Dirtscape Dreaming. BELOW LEFT Shallow creeks provide hours of fun for children. Water feature by Ben Harris Gardens.

PLACES OF ESCAPE

There's not much enticement to go out into a garden where the whole yard is visible from the back door. Adult or child would feel the same — why bother? Great gardens have paths that meander out of sight and lead to tuckedaway corners. Children need places to escape constant supervision and a well-designed garden offers them freedom to explore while they remain safe.

Try to plan paths that take twists and turns, that take you out of sight of the house, that loop back to create circuits. Long after your children leave home these paths will continue to provide interest even to the gardener who knows them well. They will remember even a small garden as being large in their memory.

It's worth noting, too, that established trees can offer a similar sense of escape. Older children armed with planks and rope will, if you have large trees, climb overhead and build structures in the canopies. Add a zip line to the mix and you'll have the neighbourhood children living in your back garden.

PRACTICAL THINKING

It's easy to think that gardens where children play often look care-worn, but that's usually because no-one's taken the time to develop design solutions to side-step the worst of the beatings. Begin by creating zones so that highimpact play areas are distinct from those parts of the garden you want to look lovely year-round.

Gather your precious, showy plantings together and position them at your entrance or opposite your main viewing windows. Then plant out the more active areas with foliage that can hold its own and recover fast if necessary, such as strappy lomandra.

Use sections of open-weave fencing or a series of posts to act as a traffic deflector where necessary, but look at where little feet habitually tread and let the goat tracks that form help you decide where new paths might be laid. And if an area takes a huge beating, do what the zoo keepers do — put up a temporary barrier and give the garden a chance to recover while you give it some added fertilising, mulching and watering treatments.

Above all, don't look at what you don't have in your garden for children; instead, look at what you do have and make the best of whatever that is. Have some rules but don't set too many boundaries. Play should involve some risk so our children can learn about their world and themselves.

This article was written by Peter Shaw of Ocean Road Landscaping (orl.com.au) on behalf of Landscaping Victoria (landscapingvictoria.com.au).



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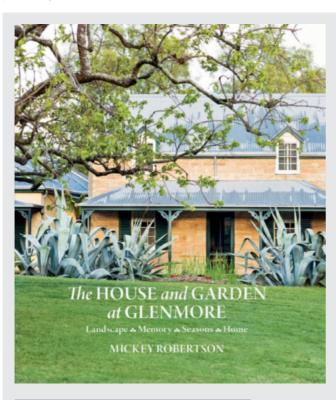
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PLANTING DREAMS

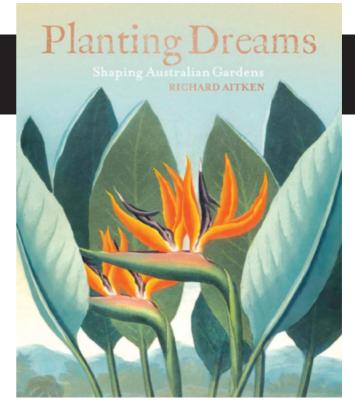
RICHARD AITKEN, NEWSOUTH, RRP \$49.99

Through the use of prints, photos, sketches and paintings — some truly exquisite examples of botanical art, others samplings from the pages of popular magazines — garden historian Richard Aitken illustrates the skill and creativity that has gone into the evolution of garden making in Australia. By reproducing this material, plucked from the State Library of NSW's archives, he captures the zeitgeist of each major period of change. Planting Dreams, which is divided into 10 cultural eras (starting with New Worlds, 1400s to 1700s and ending with Throwing Away the Rule Book, 1971 to 2016), explores the ideas and influences that have shaped the way our gardens look and the ways we use them. Gardens are part of the Australian psyche and this well-researched book sheds light on why we perceive gardens the way we do and hints at what may come.

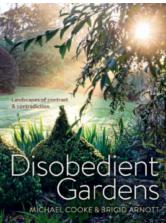


THE HOUSE AND GARDEN AT GLENMORE

MICKEY ROBERTSON, MURDOCH BOOKS, RRP \$59.99 If you're a foodie or you're interested in edible gardening, you've probably heard about Mickey Robertson and Glenmore House. Located in the foothills of the Razorback Range and just an hour's drive south of Sydney, Glenmore House is known for its kitchen gardening and seasonal cooking days, as well as its lovingly restored buildings and engaging landscape. Penned by Mickey Robertson and packed full of beautiful images, the book invites you to explore the house and garden, starting from the property's beginnings when it was little more than a series of dilapidated farm buildings. It also provides plenty of inspiration and practical information for anyone embarking on the restoration of a period home or planning to establish a kitchen garden. For the cooks among you, there are 30 recipes, each based on the seasonal produce grown in the flourishing gardens of Glenmore House.







GARDENISTA

MICHELLE SLATALLA, WORKMAN PUBLISHING, RRP \$75 Do you want outdoor spaces that are as welcoming as your interior living areas? Do you consider your garden an extension of your home? Are you looking to demystify the garden design process? If so, Michelle Slatalla, editor-in-chief of the blog Gardenista and author of the recently released book of the same name, is your go-to gal. For some, it will be the assemblage of "enviable" gardens that will hold the greatest appeal. Gardens range from a Cape Cod seaside sanctuary to a charming London row house garden but all share one thing plants are central to their design and the materials used are from, or evocative of the local area. Others will be intrigued by the DIY projects, the guide to planting palettes, or the advice on turning everyday garden objects into chic design elements.

DISOBEDIENT GARDENS

MICHAEL COOKE & BRIGID ARNOTT. MURDOCH BOOKS, RRP \$59.99 In the introduction to the book, wellknown Australian landscape designer Michael Cooke writes "... over time, if a garden is nurtured it matures and develops character, personality and depth." And, he adds, "... it gets its own 'voice'." In Disobedient Gardens, Michael tells the story of five of his favourite gardens, including his own. Each embraces the designer's love of contrast and contradiction, and this is never as evident as it is in his own garden, Hawthorne, on the NSW Central Coast. In Michael's garden, old and new sit comfortably together, as do formal and rustic elements, and diverse plants, some as unusual as the octopus agave, others as classic as Japanese box. This book is a collaborative effort between the designer and celebrated photographer Brigid Arnott, whose images capture the unique essence of each of the showcased gardens.





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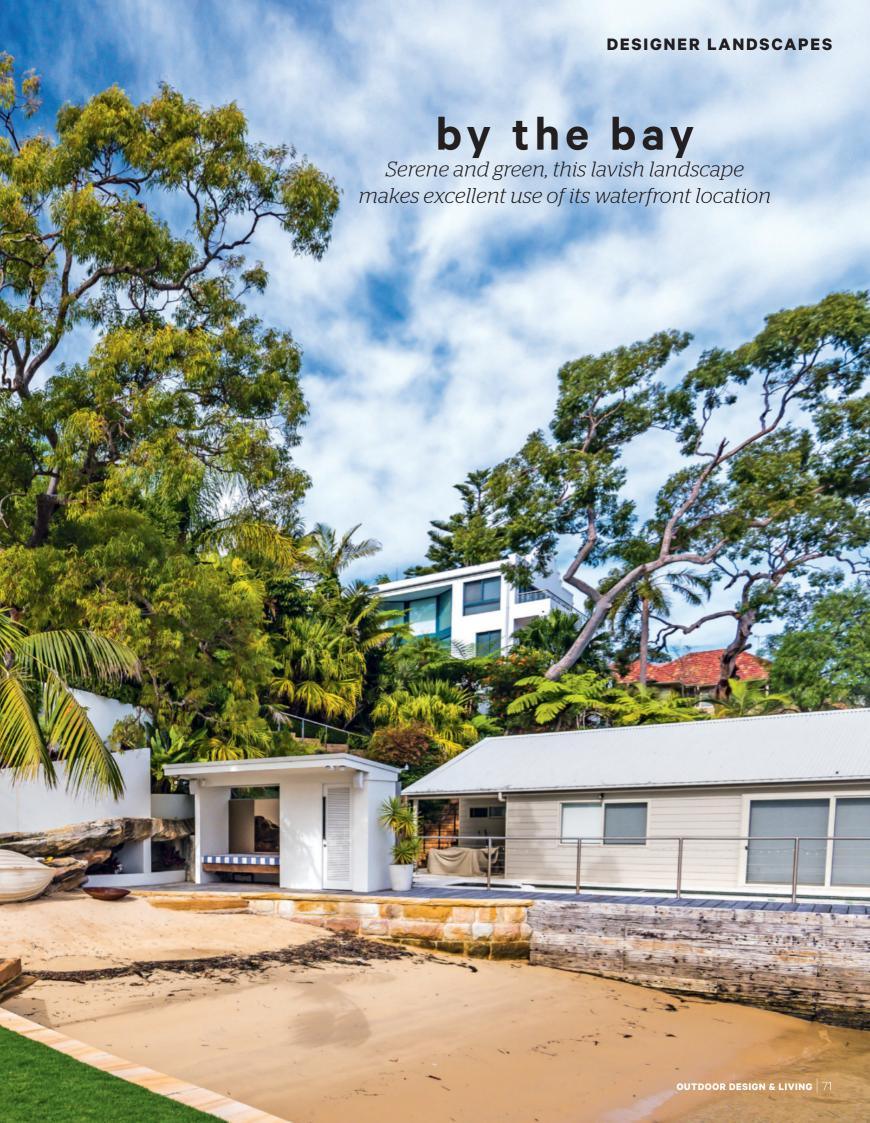


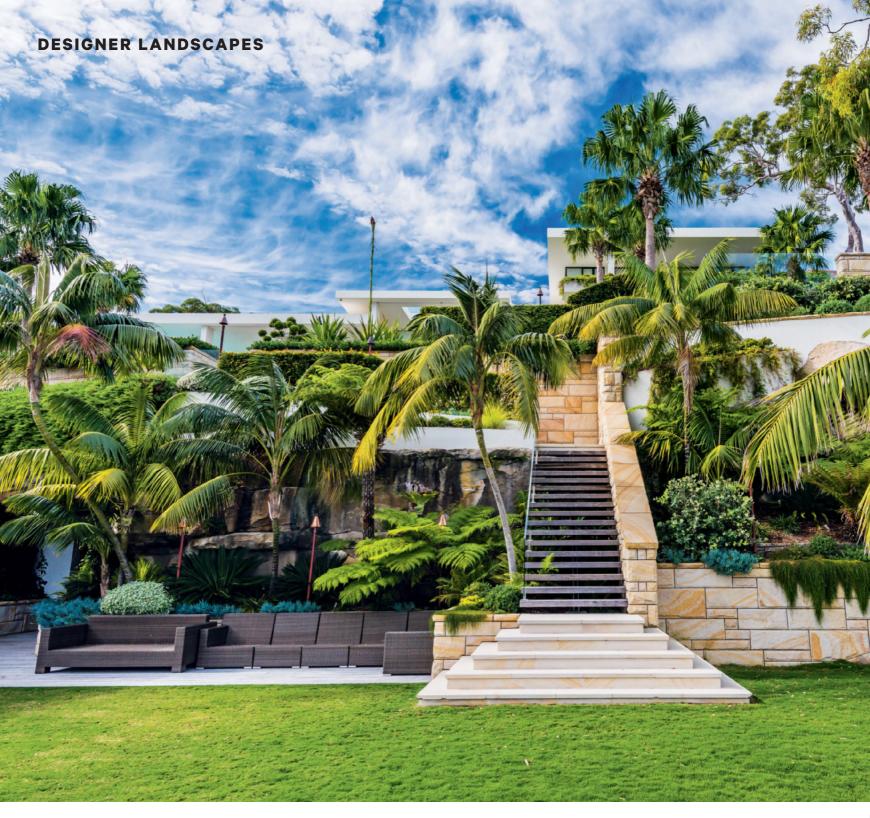


designer landscapes









well-designed garden is one with good "bones" and an authentic sense of place. It fits seamlessly into its surroundings, makes the most of its assets, and it enhances the lifestyle of those who will be using it. Although a well-designed garden looks as if its creation was close to effortless, considerable knowledge (of soils, plants, materials and the like) is required — and if you have a waterside location, finding someone with the requisite expertise is essential.

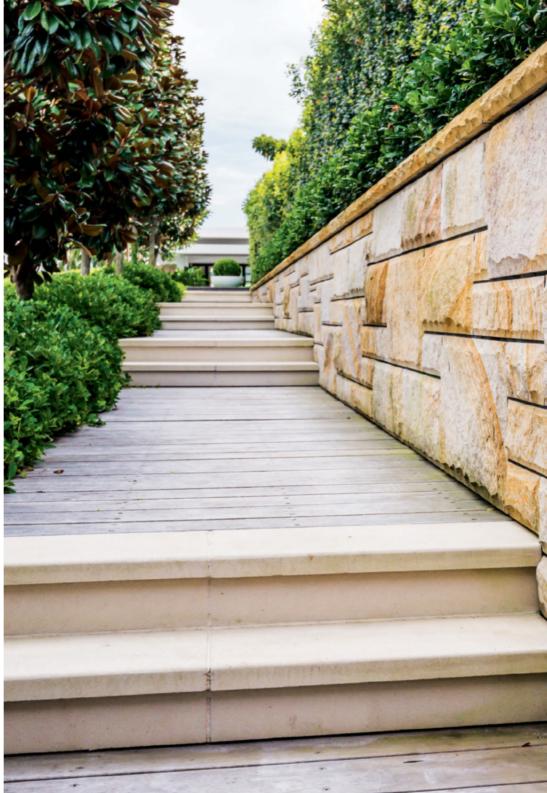
The owner of Nautilus, an award-winning property located south of Sydney on Burraneer Bay, approached accomplished landscape

architect Brandon Wallis, director of Sitedesign Studios, because of his extensive experience designing waterfront landscapes. Such proficiency was critical as it was imperative the landscape design not only complemented the remarkable residence, but that it complied with Sutherland Shire Council's exacting Greenweb and waterfront guidelines. These guidelines covered myriad aspects, including the protection of the natural rocky outcrops and the reintroduction of native trees, shrubs and groundcovers.

The design brief for Nautilus, winner of the 2015 HIA CSR House of the Year and Best Outdoor Space awards, was for a resort-style landscape with an Australian flavour. The journey from the house to the waterfront was to be easy and enjoyable and the landscape was to offer a variety of spaces that could be enjoyed at different times of the day.

"The landscape was designed for the site and not premeditated in its form. By that I mean I spent many hours on site looking at the movement of the sun across the sky, monitoring the winds and assessing the impact of neighbouring properties. This enabled me to make a number of key decisions, from what needed screening to what views needed to be opened up," says Brandon. "I also worked in close consultation with the homeowner,

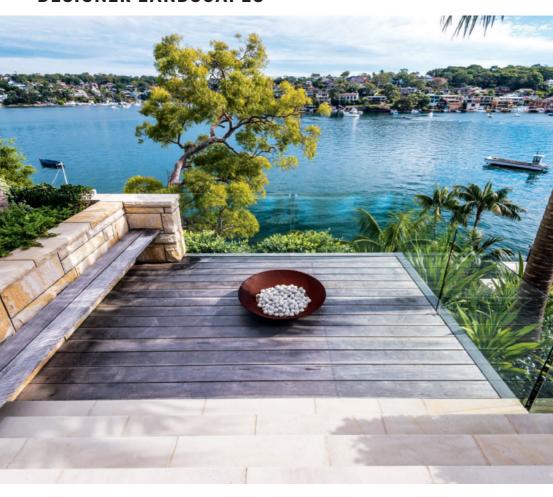








DESIGNER LANDSCAPES



who was very hands-on in choosing materials and plants, and the local council to ensure the project set a high standard for waterfront development."

This was a major project by anyone's standards. The six-storey house, the largest in the Sutherland Shire, was built over three west-facing residential blocks. It includes three lifts, a three-level garage and a 50m-long lap pool. "The development application process was rigorous and because the project was so substantial, in excess of \$20 million, it had to be approved by the New South Wales state government," explains Brandon.

To prevent the white, crisply modern residence from dominating its bayside location and causing conflict with neighbours, Brandon began working with the architect from the earliest stages of the development to ensure the home would be kept low in the landscape and the waterfront would be suitably screened.

"We also tried to save as many existing waterfront trees as possible, which in turn helped to reduce the bulk and scale of the building," adds Brandon. "Given this is such a large house, I think we were very successful in helping it to nestle within the landscape. Achieving this was the biggest challenge and we needed to draw upon all of our skills."

This was a five-year project for the Sitedesign construction team, managed by David James. The scope of works was varied and included the creation of a white sandy beach, the installation of a half-size synthetic grass football pitch and the restoration of a heritage-listed boatshed. This was one of two boatsheds on the site. The other was removed and the area converted to landscape.

As impressive as the construction works are, it is the planting that is key to the success of the landscape. "The landscape design was based on using plants that can be clipped into neat, clean shapes. This gives the garden longevity and ensures it will never outgrow itself and get messy. Given the size of the garden, it needed a certain degree of simplicity so that its maintenance would be manageable," says Brandon.

The planting palette comprises foliage colour that runs from greens through to greys and features a host of indigenous and native plants. Adding to the existing trees, which included some stunning established angophora along the waterfront, more than 30 mature trees, each exceeding 3m in height, were installed around the property. More than 300 super-advanced indigenous lilly pillies were also brought in.

To introduce more greenery and reduce the heat mass of the building, there are rooftop plantings and an extensive green wall was installed: 40m2 inside the house and another









 $30m^2$ outside. For its softening effect, draping podium planting was employed in some areas.

A total of 7000 plants were installed, with a crane used to bring in the heavier mature plants. Moreover, the crane was tasked with transporting 200 tonnes of soil along with large quantities of mulch and sand. To keep the landscape looking lush year-round, 150,000 litres of water storage was provided and 4km of irrigation pipe was laid.

Equal care was taken with the selection and installation of the various hardscaping materials. This ranges from the locally sourced, richly coloured sandstone used for cladding to the hardwood employed in the construction of the decking and steps.

Serene and luxurious in equal measure, this beautifully designed landscape has it all: wonderful bay views, places to swim, sunbathe or dine, an abundance of flourishing plants and an easy connection between indoor and outdoor living spaces.

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design and construction SITEDESIGN STUDIOS **PHONE** 1300 224 455 WEBSITE sdstudios.com.au PHOTOGRAPHY by Keith McInnes













The planting scheme changes as you move throughout the landscape. As you approach the pool area in the rear garden, you transition from a native coastal landscape into one that is reminiscent of a tropical resort. Here, a more lush green hue dominates, with a plant palette that includes Philodendron 'Xanadu', Canna sp., Cycas revoluta and Howea forsteriana (better known to many as kentia palms) as accents.

While the plants draw the eye, the hardscape elements form the backbone of the landscape, adding functionality and providing places to entertain. The new house-level deck, featuring a cantilevered edge, provides a unique outlook onto — and beyond — the landscape, making it the perfect space for entertaining and creating an easy indoor-outdoor connection.

The family's new social hub, however, is the lavish pool area, which is encircled by an array of lifestyle-enhancing features you'd expect to see in the most opulent resort. There is a stone-clad water feature, oriented so it can be seen from the house and entertaining deck, a fire pit encircled by built-in seating, a daybed with a pergola and a fully equipped poolside pavilion.

Adding interest to the area around the pool and drawing the eye to the various poolside features are inlays of random quartzite paving. The same stone is used as steppers elsewhere in the garden, visually linking the various spaces.

The retaining walls in the rear garden vary in texture and material. Some feature large retaining rock, others are of smooth rendered masonry, and others are built of timber sleepers. Due to the steep gradient of the site, retaining walls were an important element, allowing the creation of different garden zones and the introduction of an interesting mix of surfaces.

The family now has an artfully terraced, lushly planted garden that not only meets their every lifestyle need, it also fits hand-inglove with its wider surrounds.

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design and construction FRANKLIN LANDSCAPE & DESIGN **PHONE** (03) 9598 1094 MOBILE 0401 383 827 EMAIL david@franklinld.com WEBSITE franklinld.com PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond













ardens with a compelling classical undertone are always in favour. There is something timeless about them and they have a restrained elegance that ensures they transcend passing fads and changing trends.

This garden in Seaforth, north of Sydney, is a melodious mix of classic and contemporary notes that strike a pitch-perfect chord, thanks to the expertise of designer Matt Leacy, founder of Landart Landscapes + Pools.

"The homeowners' brief was to create a functional, free-flowing space for the family and their friends," explains Matt. "Places to play, swim and entertain were a necessity. In terms of the design, it has a lot of classic elements with a simple, refined palette of materials and plants. There are definitely contemporary elements as well, though.

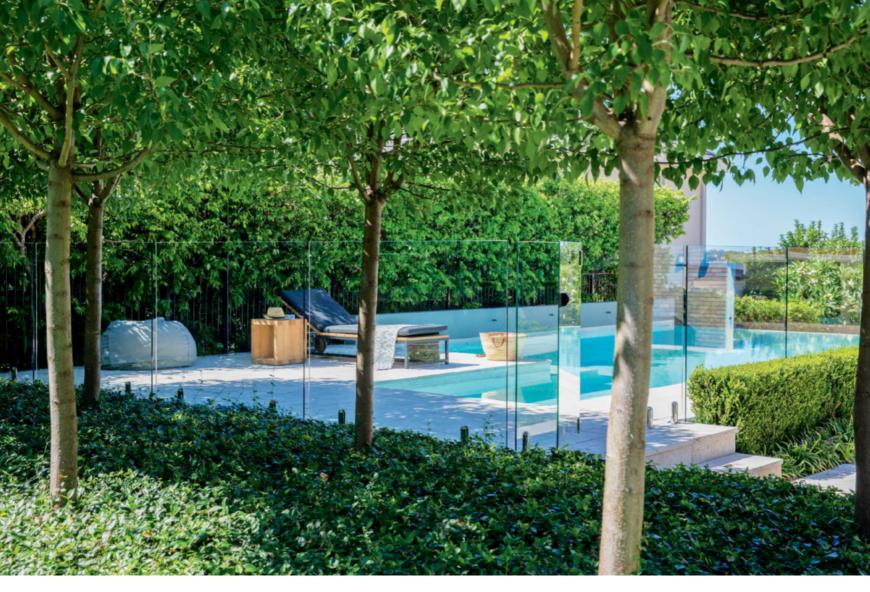
Creating a seamless indoor-outdoor transition, the home's bifold doors open onto a dining area paved in classic travertine. From there, a sweeping set of steps ushers you to the upper terrace, where the main outdoor entertaining space, a fire pit retreat and a swimming pool await.

"The scale and proportions of the spaces are really comfortable," says Matt. "I like the way we have created lots of rooms and spaces that feel completely connected to each other. There is a really comfortable transition between each space and the level change has been used to our advantage and almost goes unnoticed."

Of special note is the way the pool spillover connects the lower area of the garden to the pool level. In doing so, the water is brought closer to the interior of the house so it can be appreciated from anywhere.

The entertaining spot includes a drinks bar with an integrated barbecue cooktop, sink and fridge. The benchtop is of white composite stone and the feature tile on the front of the bar is a cement tile, handmade in Morocco, from Popham Design.

Australian spotted gum hardwood was used



for the decking. This helps to soften the look of the natural stone that was used extensively throughout the garden and around the pool.

"Pleached pears were used to create the visual framework of the garden and a divide between the main open entertaining space, the pool and the second larger grassed area. They also provide the scale needed for such a large space," adds Matt.

These engaging avenues of pears contribute a quintessentially classic design element, the effect of which is beautifully enhanced at night by strategically placed uplights.

The most engaging gardens look as if they were "meant to be". They are like a well-written symphony in which each integral element water, plants, decor, lighting — is in perfect harmony, not just with each other, but with the home the garden envelops. Here, Matt Leacy of Landart has proven himself to be the most accomplished of garden composers.

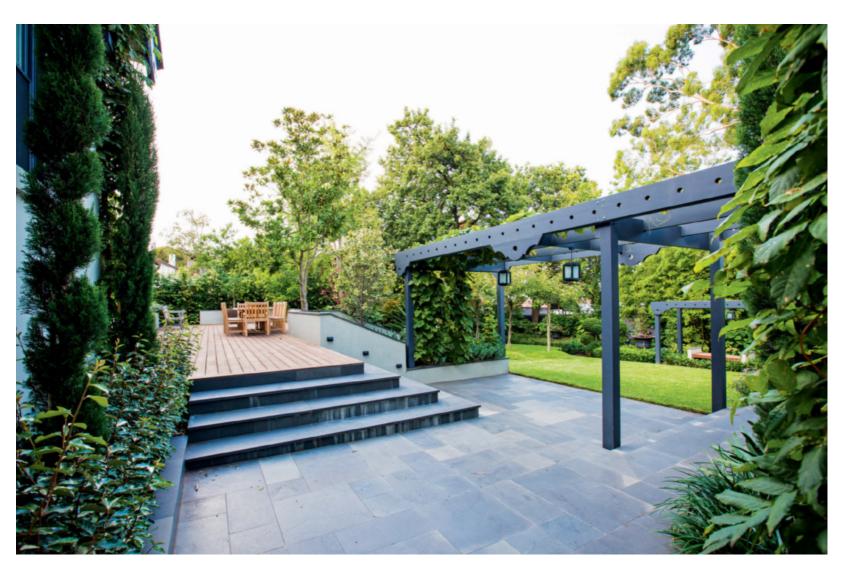
PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design and construction LANDART LANDSCAPES + POOLS **PHONE** (02) 9958 0462 EMAIL info@landart.com.au WEBSITE landart.com.au PHOTOGRAPHY by Jason Busch











lants make a garden. They're what draw us out and make us want to linger. This exquisite garden by Jane Jones Landscapes is a stunning case in point - it's also the winner of the Plants in the Landscape category in the 2016 Landscaping Victoria Industry Awards.

A garden of loose informal design, it features lush mass plantings of contrasting foliage and texture. Moreover, it provides

seasonality in flower and autumnal colour to create year-round interest.

"The primary goal was to realise a design that would enhance the then newly renovated Victorian home while complementing the owner's lifestyle needs and artistic aesthetic," explains designer Jane Jones. "The owner is an artist and desired a garden with pockets of varying interest constructed through layers of foliage and contrasting textural qualities."

At the rear, the house opens onto a large deck that extends the living space into the outdoors and provides a formal space for dining and entertainment. "One can access the rear lawn directly from the deck or via staggered terraces of bluestone paving, which meander down beneath a large vine-covered arbour extending from the garage and also provide access to both the garage and driveway," explains Jane.

Four arbours were constructed across the front and rear gardens. In addition to the one off the garage, a smaller arbour was constructed over a bench seat at the back of the property, creating a little seating nook. In the front garden, one arbour is positioned over the pedestrian gate; the other, clad in wisteria, over the driveway entrance.

"The arbours link the two spaces and also complement and reflect the heritage of the house, uniting house and garden and adding a dimension of architectural formality to the lush surroundings of soft green plantings," says Jane. "To one side of the rear lawn a whimsical gallery of flowering cherry trees, positioned on convex mounds, breaks up the mass of lawn," she continues. "Their twisted trunks establish them as a living sculptural feature while their soft blossoms provide a seasonal visual delight through spring."



In the front garden, a curved path interrupts sweeping mass plantings that feature striking combinations of Buxus microphylla var. japonica and Westringia fruticosa spheres. Says Jane, "The spheres provide an excellent means of adding a structural quality to loose mass plantings. Their form also affords a somewhat traditional formal planting with a more contemporary aesthetic."

The front garden is also home to Acer palmatum, Cupressus sempervirens 'Glauca', Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy' and Prunus lusitanica, which all contribute height, and an engaging assortment of unusual perennials along with soft groundcover plantings of trailing rosemary.

As this is a landscape to be enjoyed after the sun sets, outdoor lighting has been installed in strategic locations, such as at the base of each flowering cherry tree. The result is a garden that holds you in its soft embrace and has an enigmatic quality both day and night.

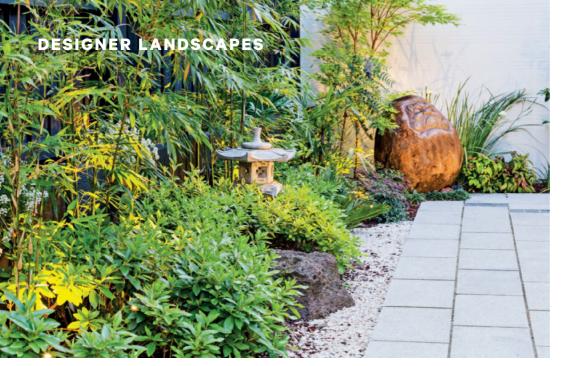
PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design and construction JANE JONES LANDSCAPES 1444 Malvern Road, Glen Iris Vic 3146 **MOBILE** 0417 513 213 EMAIL jane@jjl.com.au WEBSITE jjl.com.au









hen the call went out to Japanese garden specialist Moto Kihara of Kihara Landscapes, the home was nearing completion. Original landscaping plans had been prepared by Jack Merlo Design, together with Orbis Constructions, but one of the homeowners is Japanese and wanted a genuine Japanese garden constructed by a Japanese garden professional.

The newly built home includes a Japanese tea room, complete with imported tatami floor mats, which overlooks one section of the garden. It was here that Kihara Landscapes was asked to design and construct a very traditional Japanese garden — one the owner could look out on and enjoy when performing the Japanese tea ceremony.

Kihara Landscapes was also charged with building the remaining outdoor areas. Other parts of the home have a more contemporary look than the tea room so the adjacent garden spaces needed a more modern, yet still traditionally minimalist Japanese style. There were practical issues to address, too. As the owners are of retirement age, ease of access to all areas was vital-this included incorporating gradual steps to the front door. And as their grandchildren regularly come to play, soft fall spaces were needed.

The owners wanted a personal connection to the traditional Japanese garden area, so Moto incorporated some of their own outdoor collector's pieces, such as the large "daruma" rock ornament. The daruma is one of Japan's most famous good luck talismans and this

one, brought from Japan, weighs in at 400kg.

Japanese gardens are designed to appeal to all of the senses, hence the inclusion of a traditional water feature, comprised of a granite water bowl and bamboo spout. The sound of water dropping is an essential element in a Japanese garden, one that stills the mind. Picking up on the colour of the water bowl, there is also a granite lantern and granite paving which has been used in various parts of the garden.

The merbau timber deck was intentionally left unstained to create a balance between new and old, which is typical of the Japanese aesthetic "wabi-sabi" found at the heart of traditional Japanese gardens.

Plant selection was an essential part of the process, with Moto striving to create a planting scheme as close as possible to what you would see in Japan, but using locally sourced plants. That wasn't the only consideration, however. One of the homeowners practises ikebana, so the garden needed to incorporate plants that could be used in arrangements. One distinctive part of the garden also features kangaroo paw, illustrating that Australian native plants are harmonious with a Japanese garden.

Moto's planting palette ensures the garden can be enjoyed throughout the seasons. Bambusa textilis 'Gracilis', a luscious upright non-clumping bamboo, adds greenery en masse. Also, the sound of wind flowing through the bamboo's leaves is a crucial element of the Japanese garden.

Other traditional plants found in the garden include Japanese weeping maples, camellias and two kinds of Japanese cherry blossom trees — Fuji and Yoshino. As a non-weeping variety, the Yoshino was tricky to source, but well worth the effort. There is also Japanese box hedging, gardenias and Ginkgo biloba.

Lighting plays an integral role. Twentyeight LED lights were placed throughout the Japanese garden and there is 12-volt LED lighting beneath the stairs approaching the impressive front door. This really sets off the entrance at night.



PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design and construction

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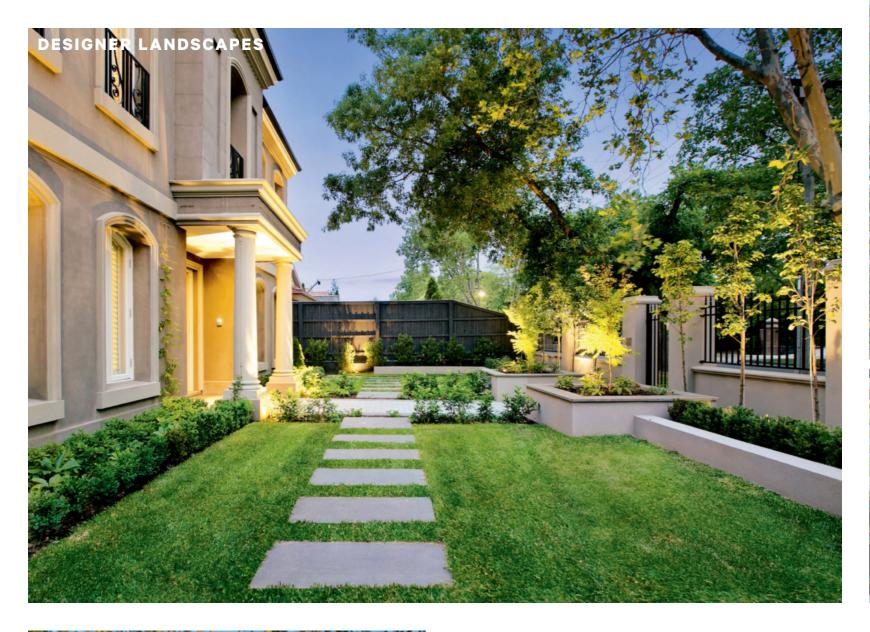
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PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond











■ he formal garden is always in favour. Defined by its sense of symmetry, confident use of geometric shapes and its respect for form and balance, the formal garden is a place of enduring elegance. A well-conceived formal garden will transcend changing trends and passing fancies, thereby ensuring the design never dates or looks out of place.

The owners of this luxury property in Balywn, one of Melbourne's most exclusive suburbs, sought a garden designed in the classic formal style - something eloquent that would complement the grandeur of their two-storey home. Working in collaboration, Victorian Landscape Group and Hugh Gilmour & Associates designed a garden of timeless sophistication.

The simple elegance of the garden belies the challenges that were faced. "As the property claims a corner block, maintaining privacy was imperative — but this had to be achieved without making the garden feel like a prison," explains Shane Gardner, founder of Victorian Landscape Group. "The other challenge was limited space. The property doesn't have a lot of outside space so the goal was to introduce as much greenery as possible."

The fencing for the front and side boundaries is of traditional design and frames the garden and house to perfection. Built of masonry, which was then rendered and painted to match the colour of the home, the fence features architectural mouldings that add to the formal look.

The planting palette is largely influenced by traditional, formal English gardens. A leisurely stroll around the house will reveal box hedging, ornamental pear trees, laurels and gardenias, along with maples for added seasonal interest.



From the front gate, a path of classical granite setts bordered by bluestone pavers leads to the home's grand entrance. Flowing off this pathway, bluestone stepping stone paths traverse the garden. One path leads you to the side of the house, ushering you to a charming outdoor dining space, also paved in granite setts and bluestone.

On your journey to the paved side garden, you pass through a timber arbour. Constructed of cypress and stained in a dark oak colour, the timber references the home's large timber double entry doors, thematically tying the spaces together. The final touch comes in the form of extensive landscape lighting, installed by Victorian Landscape Group using their own garden lighting range.

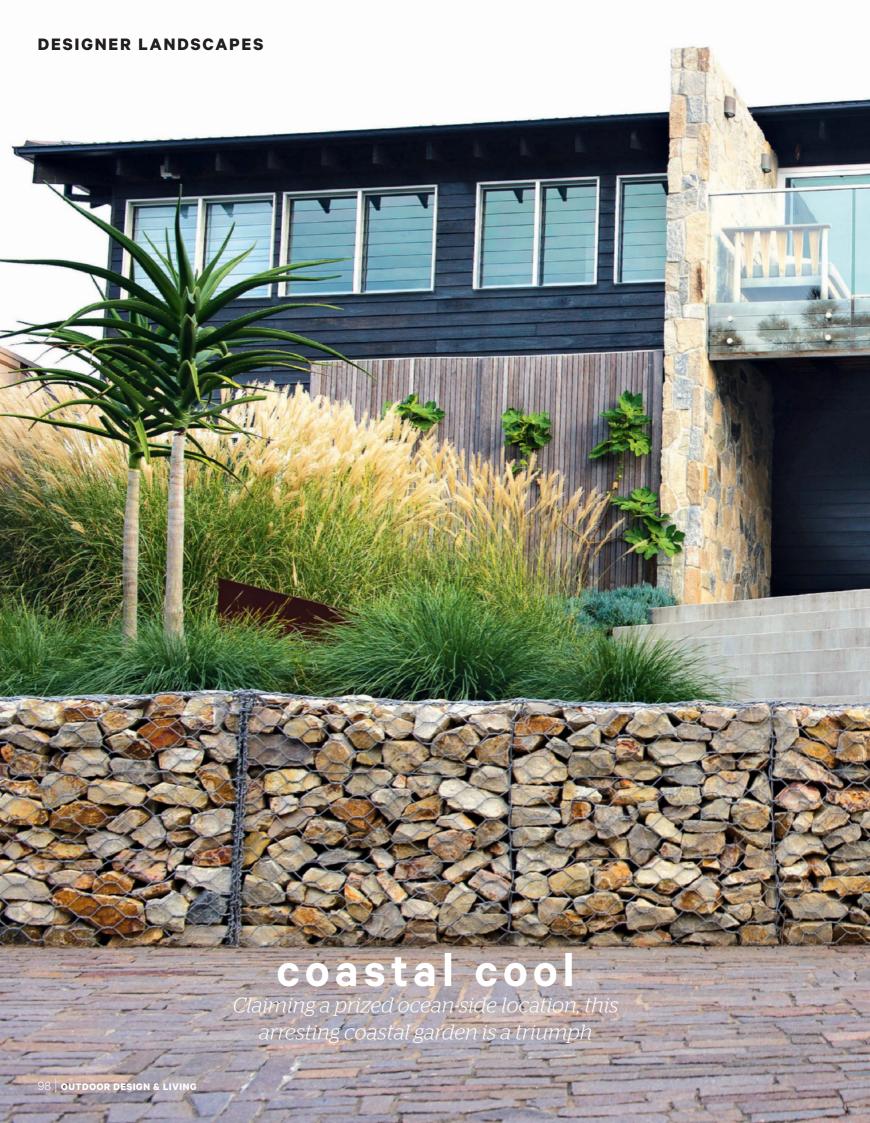
Victorian Landscape Group provides a complete range of services from landscape design and documentation to construction. At the helm is Shane Gardner who, in addition to being an experienced designer, qualified horticulturist, registered builder and licensed swimming pool builder, has qualifications in renewable energy. Known for the diversity of his designs and construction expertise, Shane has not only created myriad gardens for homeowners in and around Melbourne, he has extended his reach to London, where he has participated in two Chelsea Flower Shows.

PROJECT DETAILS

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his beach house garden has a contemporary feel and an awe-inspiring sense of place, thanks to the abundance of coastal plantings and the emphasis on natural, beautifully textured hardscaping materials. Located on the New South Wales Central Coast, the garden was built by Adam Eurell and the Nature's Vision Landscapes' construction team, who were charged with bringing garden designer Michael Cooke's vision to life.

"The garden design is replete with clever details and uses well-considered forms to showcase the house and its ocean-side location. Some materials have been used in a simple way, others in a more complex manner, but generally the overall style is contemporary and the feel relaxed," says Adam.

Of decidedly modern design, the entry staircase provides a sculptural welcome. It was built using off-form concrete and is comprised of a series of platforms with varying treads. An outdoor shower area, located to the side of the entry and tucked behind a stone blade wall, is another distinctive design element. This is a private space that can be accessed from inside the house or from the garden.

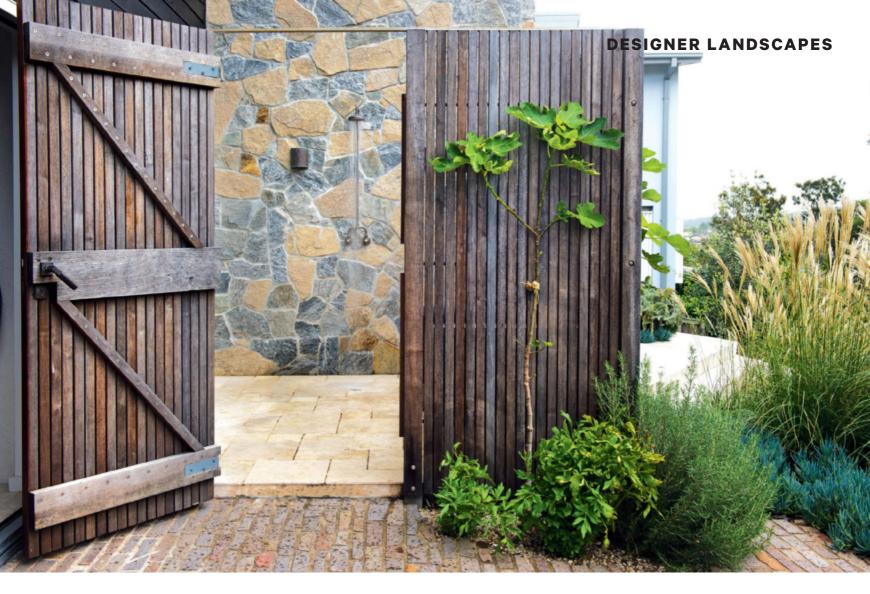
"The block was quite steep and provisions were required for parking. The drive was

constructed of Eco Outdoor's Filetti stone and two level areas were excavated to provide space for parking and an arrival point. The random Filetti stone was used to replicate the look of the steep drives in Italy," adds Adam.

"The feature wall at the front of the home, as well as the wall behind the shower, was clad in Eco Outdoor's Howqua granite veneer walling," he continues. "Other walling included gabion baskets filled with white quartz." Gabion walls are finding their way into more and more garden designs, but here their use is particularly inspired and adds to the complex interplay and layering of textures and materials, both natural and man-made.

"The ocean-side garden offers a relaxed lawn area bordered by a rear fence, ensuring a seamless connection with the sea. The materials used for the fence — merbau timber and brass mesh — will allow it to age gracefully in the exposed position," adds Adam.

The large existing casuarinas were retained in both front and ocean-facing gardens. "Most homeowners would want large trees like this removed to open up the views, but these trees actually enhanced the views and provided shade on the rear lawn," says Adam. The additional plants were mainly indigenous coastal plants and some exotics, chiefly succulents. The new





natives included banksias, coastal tea trees, westringia, pigface, lomandra and lilly pillies.

The exotics included citrus and herbs such as thyme, Italian parsley, sage, coriander and rosemary, which were planted at the shower entry to create a Mediterranean feel. The end result looks sublime and smells delightful.



PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape construction

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PHOTOGRAPHY by Brigid Arnott













hen you travel as often as the owners of this contemporary home, you don't want to spend all your at-home time mowing lawns and digging out weeds. You want a garden that is low-maintenance — and if you're as easy-going as these homeowners, you'll want a design that reflects your laid-back approach.

With this firmly in mind, the designer, Cameron Paterson, of Grounded Gardens, set about creating a garden he describes as "very relaxed with a calming feel. My aim was to design spaces that entice you out of the house and into the garden; to create places that function as an extension of the home and provide pleasing outlooks," he says.

Through a confident mix of textures and a planting palette that promotes variety, Cameron has created outdoor spaces that have a real sense of connection with nature and a welcoming feel. Moreover, they are spaces that don't need a lot of TLC to flourish.

"I used a diversity of plants, ensuring there will be something in flower through every month of the year, and that the mix of foliage shapes and colours will provide year-round interest. I also used lowmaintenance plants, taking into consideration the garden's various microclimates when making my choices," he says.

For the dry, full-sun areas of the garden, I blended a lot of natives, such as kangaroo paws, coastal rosemary, creeping banksia and grevilleas, with exotics that thrive in similar conditions, such as sedums, olive trees, sanseveria and cotton lavender," continues Cameron, "In the shaded areas, you will find salvias, hellebores, liriope and agastache."

As some of the garden beds were narrow, Cameron introduced a lot of contrasts in the colour and texture of the foliage to deliver maximum impact. To create the illusion of greater depth, he used plants of varied heights, with the largest towards the back of the beds.

The property boasts two courtyards and the plants play a pivotal role in both, softening the spaces and creating a lovely outlook from the home. One courtyard features a paved patio area for casual seating and the other, at the home's rear, is for dining, giving the owners plenty of choice when it comes to entertaining.

Even though the courtyards have a natural look and a relaxed informality, they are the perfect counterpart to the contemporary architecture of the house. Another designer might have been tempted to overly emphasise the clean lines of the house in the garden, but Cameron chose to settle the residence into an all-embracing garden where organic shapes, natural textures and softening foliage reign supreme. This is an inspiring example of modern Australian garden design.

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design

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PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond





DESIGNER LANDSCAPES







he visionary behind this amazing garden is Lisa Ellis of Lisa Ellis Gardens. When asked to design a garden that would complement the recently renovated residence, Lisa considered the practical and aesthetic implications. On the practical side, the goal was to create two separate outdoor living areas — one more shaded than the other — so the garden could be enjoyed at different times of the day and during different seasons.

"We also brought the garden closer to the house, putting plants immediately along the side of the elevated deck and ensuring the garden was at eye level when viewed from the lower level of the house," says Lisa.

The serene, Japanese-inspired design combines clipped evergreens with edible plants, all laid out in a non-symmetrical fashion. "The emphasis is on form and foliage rather than flowers," says Lisa. "Green is the predominant theme. The human eye is more sensitive to green than any other colour, which means we can distinguish more shades of green. Black paling fences help illuminate the green spectrum.

The repeated use of buxus balls brings together the edible plants, which, if planted on their own, would not offer much visual drama," she continues. "Edible plants used as ornamental plants, including citrus and bay trees, the latter used as living green hedges, give structure to the garden and they provide food for the table."

Clumping bamboo was used on the blind side of the house as screening; it was also used as a gateway from the front garden through to the rear garden. For reprieve from the sun as well as a splash of autumn colour, there are two crepe myrtles while the jacaranda trees growing in the citrus beds provide scale to the house and garden without blocking too much light from the citrus.

A spotted gum deck adjoins the house and this leads down to bluestone crazy paving. "Crazy paving was used to echo the 1960s-era style of the house," explains Lisa. "Also, we favoured bluestone for its ability to act as a visual anchor in the garden and complement the render on the house. Just as importantly, the bluestone is a beautiful contrast to the green foliage palette."

Bluestone coping was used for seating around the edges of the sunken courtyard, tying in the retaining walls with the paving and steps. The courtyard features a white powder-coated modern table setting, selected because it best complements the 1960s-era styling.

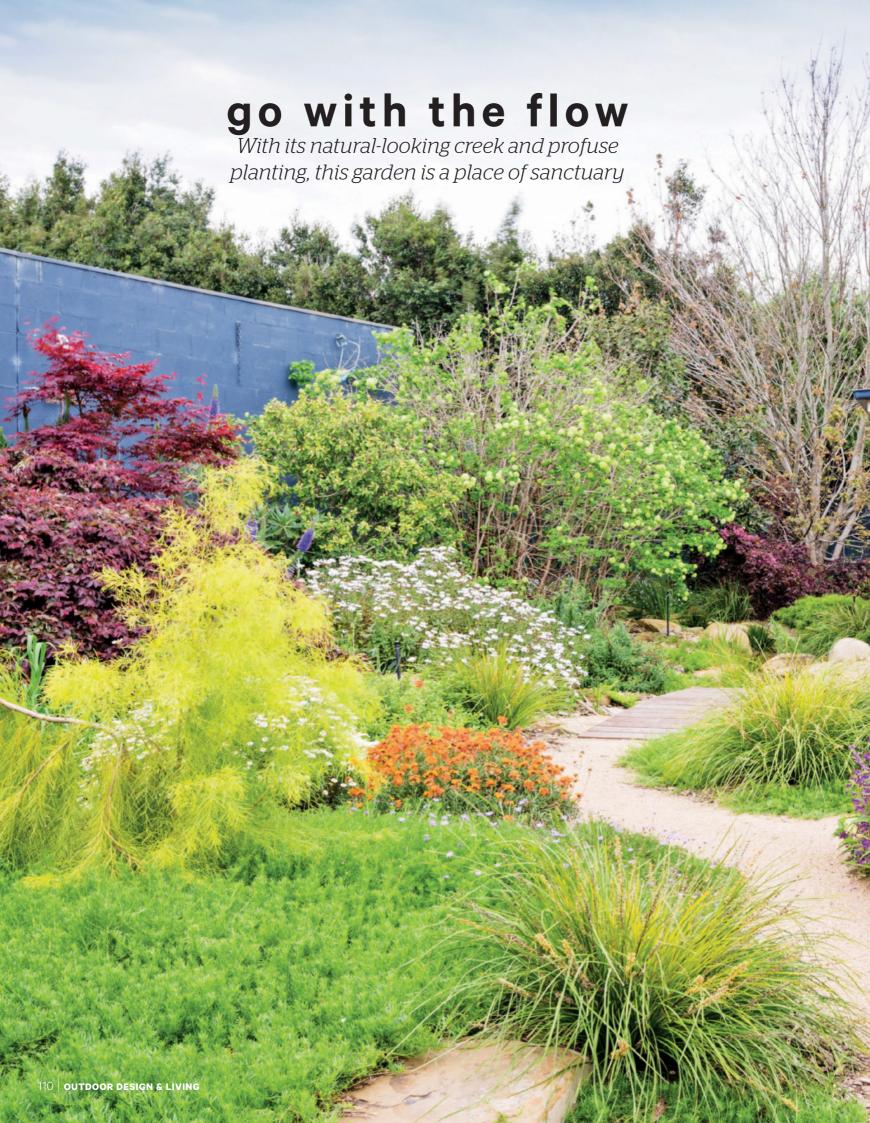
Now the owners have a lush, mostly evergreen garden with cleverly integrated edible plantings, a sense of serenity and relaxed spaces in which to entertain.

PROJECT DETAILS

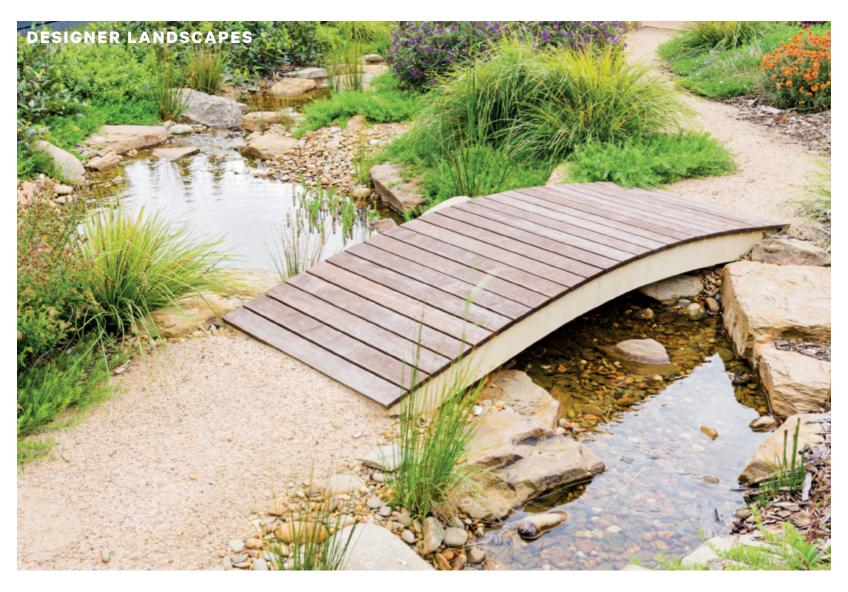
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urrounded by lawn and framed by a garden largely comprised of exotic plants, the new gazebo was an attractive destination, but something was missing. The garden needed a journey.

Ben Harris Gardens was engaged by the owners of the property, located in the Melbourne suburb of Lysterfield, to reimagine their garden, making the gazebo and how you arrived there - an integral part of the design. They also wanted more native plants and a natural water feature.

The new garden uses a variety of Australian native plants, many of them birdattracting, and exotics that complement the existing planting, but it's the water feature that is the centrepiece.

"Initially, the owners had the idea of a large pond, but after finding out that keeping fish was not important to them, I suggested a pondless creek. This would give them the movement and sound of running water, but with much less maintenance," explains Ben.

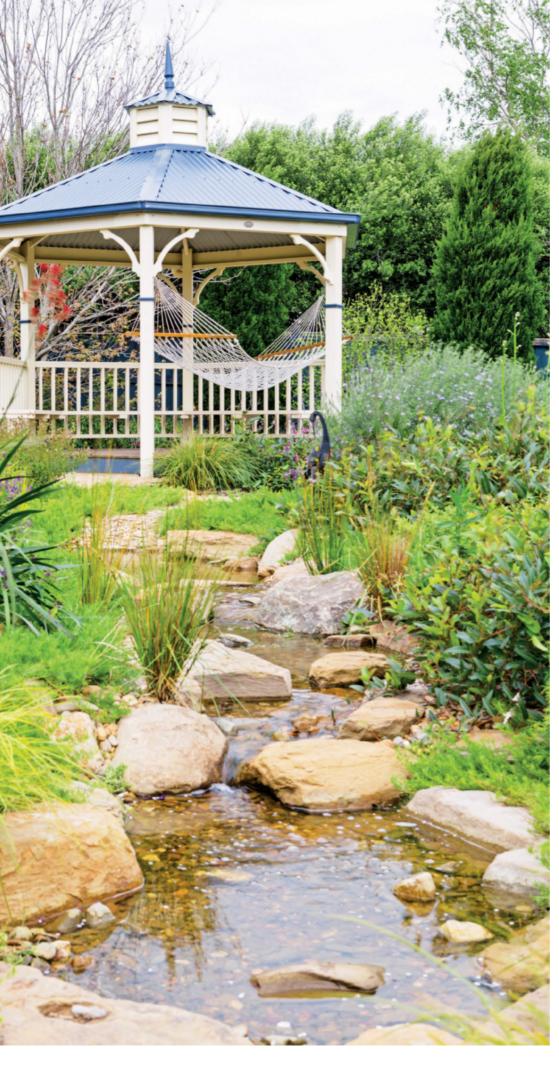
The 20m-long creek winds through the garden, emerging from bushes near the gazebo and finishing its journey close to the house. Throughout the various twists and turns the water speeds up and slows down, generating a variety of relaxing sounds.

"It was designed to be interactive," says Ben, "so on the way to the gazebo the owners need to cross a lovely arched timber bridge and walk alongside the stream. If they want to cool their feet, they can ford the stream at its widest point and there are many rocks where they can sit and watch the water go by. Most often, however, they lie in the hammock in the gazebo, relaxing to the sound of the water."

Great care went into creating the natural feel of the creek, which included the use of natural yellow mudstone and a hidden reservoir where the water seemingly disappears. "It really does look like a stream that has emerged over time, with the home and gazebo being built around it," says Ben.

While he provided the vision and skill for building the creek, Aquascape Supplies Australia provided the Firestone liner, Aquascape pump, plumbing materials and AquaBlox. Aquascape Supplies Australia also has a complete system for pondless water features that is available to any contractor or DIYer and can teach the techniques that enable the creation of such natural-looking water features as this one.

Custom Built Gazebos of Silvan, a suburb in Melbourne's outer east, built the gazebo.





Tom Allen of Custom Built Gazebos provides a custom design and building service that can work with almost any site, including sloping blocks. The company also supplies and installs kits for gazebos up to 8m in diameter.

By skilfully integrating the shadegiving gazebo into the new design, Ben Harris Gardens has created a charming, free-flowing, naturalistic garden where the abundant planting and running creek combine to create a place of retreat.

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design and construction

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PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond







f grand scale, this multi-levelled garden is an entertainer's delight. The garden was designed in two stages: the first by The Garden Company, which created a large pond as well as greenery and gardens around the house. The second stage, which included the outdoor room, water feature, arbour and casual conversation nooks, was designed by Roger Brown of Focal Point Garden Design.

The second stage was developed across a sloping block that sat behind the existing property and was acquired by the owners several years after the original garden was completed. There were a few existing trees Roger felt were worth retaining, but other than that, he had a clean slate.

"The owners asked that a garden with lots of colour and interest be created on the new block so I suggested a 'botanical gardens' theme where they could walk along meandering paths flowing in and out of garden rooms filled with trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals," explains Roger. "I also suggested an outdoor room with an expansive lawn for entertaining, soothing water features, an arbour tunnel, sitting areas nestled along curved dry-stone walls, and carefully sited sculptures."



To ensure the new garden fit seamlessly with the already established landscape, one of the first things Roger looked at was the existing pond at the rear boundary of the original block. "The rubber-liner pond was enlarged and reconstructed to incorporate a concrete shell tiled with black glass mosaics, an extensive negative edge and a 1.2m-high spillover wall

directing the water to a hidden tank," says Roger. "Hiding the water tank, a spotted gum boardwalk hugs the spillover wall then veers away to form a seamless transition between the existing garden and the new landscape that stretches below."

To make the journey from the existing garden to the newly landscaped area a treat



for the senses, Roger designed an arbour, built using hollow steel painted a rust colour, that is now draped in Boston ivy and strategically lit at night. "This presents a lovely entry to the lawn area that adjoins the contemporary outdoor room," he says.

Once you cross the lawn, another timber boardwalk continues down to a native garden on the landscape's lower tier where dozens of plant genera grow, attracting an abundance of native fauna. There is also a rustic paved path that meanders through the lower garden beds, leading to a private gathering point with in-built seating and a fire pit.

Of course, it's the self-contained outdoor room that is the hub of family entertaining. It incorporates a contemporary kitchen, a sleek dining spot and a spacious lounge area, not to mention all the mod cons, such as a television and sound system. Could you ask for more?

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design FOCAL POINT GARDEN DESIGN **PHONE** (03) 9888 4616 **EMAIL** fpgardendesign@bigpond.com.au WEBSITE fpgardendesign.com.au PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond







keeping it simple
This contemporary outdoor entertaining area

acts as an extension of the home's interior





ess is definitely more when working with smaller spaces, which is why this garden, with its pared-back outdoor room and sleek swimming pool, is such a resounding success. Through the use of a limited palette of materials, colours and plants, this Melbourne garden looks and feels a lot bigger than it actually is.

Maximising the space was imperative, says Steve Taylor of COS Design, and one of the ways this was achieved was by modifying the property's boundaries and turning them into features in their own right. To screen the boundary walls, Steve specified the use of stained hardwood Screen Boards.

In the section that runs behind the outdoor room, there is an inset feature wall of natural stone while alongside the pool, the screen sits behind a charcoal-coloured rendered raised planter. This built-in planter contains a carefully selected combination of asparagus ferns and plumb yews, Teddy Bear magnolias underplanted with blue chalk sticks, and an evergreen hedge of ficus.

"As the owners wanted to make the most of the space, I designed both the alfresco room and pool area to have a great indooroutdoor flow that effectively extends the house into the garden," says Steve. "When designing the outdoor entertaining area, as well as the pool, the outlook from all the interior rooms was considered, and features were incorporated to create visual interest from the main living spaces.

"To create outdoor spaces that complement the contemporary architecture of the home, I used a minimalist approach in which sleek sophisticated lines create symmetry from the internal vistas. Getting the right balance between hard and soft landscaping elements was equally crucial," adds Steve.

The covered alfresco area, which is paved in large-format natural stone, is home to a modern lounge suite and dining setting, as well as a barbecue. The slimline Electrolux barbecue, was discreetly integrated into a very sleek, space-maximising cantilevered stainless-steel bench which was attached to the stone-clad feature wall.

The pool zone is separated from the outdoor room by frameless glass fencing but connected by a polished white concrete pad that starts in the entertaining area and extends to surround the raised spa. "The four-sided wet-edge spa is finished in black mosaic tiles and seems to rise up from the pool with its dazzling interior of white ceramic tiles. The effect is stark and striking," says Steve.

Towards the other end of the pool, a strip of black mosaic tiles extends up and over the pool wall. A stainless-steel C channel was incorporated into this strip to create a water feature. A timber sun deck frames the far end of the swimming pool, adding functionality to the space.

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design COS DESIGN PHONE (03) 9889 3329 EMAIL steve@cosdesign.com.au WEBSITE cosdesign.com.au **PHOTOGRAPHY** by Tim Turner









f you want to garner some clever ideas for creating your own outdoor living or entertaining space, visiting a premium display home is a great idea. This is the recommendation of Graham Taylor, founder of Distinctive Landscapes, who is working with Masterton Homes to build the external living spaces for several of their impressive new display properties.

"What we are trying to achieve with the Masterton display homes is to integrate different styles of landscaping and design, so that people can come and get ideas for their own homes. When we are designing and installing the landscaping for a Masterton display home it is all about lifestyle, functionality and showcasing a variety of styles to suit individual personalities," explains Graham.

The outdoor areas featured here are a case in point. One is a spacious cooking and dining space, covered by a crisp white angular pergola. The clean lines of the shade structure, which are replicated in the large-format paving and the minimalist dining setting, give the space a contemporary look, which is what modern families are seeking. One of the stand-out

features is the built-in outdoor kitchen, complete with a sink and ample bench space for preparation.

The grey and white colour system is repeated in the nearby reflection pond and decorative screening. The water feature is comprised of a long, elevated pond into which four water jets were placed, enlivening the space with the sight and sound of water in motion. Directly above there are five white laser-cut screens that act as a $\operatorname{backdrop}$ — and as a means of introducing more greenery. A planter box is attached to each screen, adding some foliage and floral colour to contrast the expanse of white.

Of course there is the front garden. too. Again, a water feature is the design focal point. The fountain sits in a "sea" of evergreen plants and its dark colouring picks up on the colours used in the exterior of the house and the landscaped rear garden, creating a sense of connection.

"If you get a chance to view a Masterton display home you will be able to see what it is that you are after in your own outdoor space," reiterates Graham. "For example, here you can see how modern concrete, tiles and paving can work with more traditional softscaping, such as formal hedges. You can also see ways of using feature plants and vertical planters, all balanced in one space.

"A visit to a Masterton display home similarly provides ideas for open and closed patio areas and shows various ways of integrating a functional outdoor kitchen or barbecue area into a landscape design. The idea is to provide options and show people the different ways they can enjoy their outdoor areas."

Sydneysiders can visit the home featured here at the Oran Park Town display centre or visit the Masterton Display Village, located on the corner of Sappho Road and Hume Highway, Warwick Farm.

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape construction

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a life outdoors

Modern yet warm and earthy, these outdoor spaces are as inviting as they are functional







confident fusion of design influences — some sleek and modern, others distinctly Australian with a rustic touch — this transformed rear garden has a contemporary yet earthy feel.

The brief given to designer Josh Hooper of Landscape Techniques and his experienced construction team was to update the existing swimming pool and create a versatile outdoor entertaining area that could be used year-round. Moreover, the new areas needed to complement the old bluestone manor house and sufficient space had to be provided for grass sports.

"The new entertaining area, which takes the form of a large pool pavilion, boasts a generous outdoor kitchen with a barbecue and oven, a sink and bar fridge, full cabinetry, a television and a dining table that can seat 14 people," explains Josh.

"The pavilion is designed in an L shape, which carves the structure into two wings. One is for casual entertaining and it is here you will find a cantilevered concrete bench and a feature wall of Crackenback stone; the other is for dining. This space features a large dining table over which wire pendant lighting is suspended. The extensive outdoor kitchen links these two spaces."

The Crackenback free-form sandstone wall works with the concrete bench to give the pool pavilion a contemporary yet down-to-earth feel. The Australian vibe is reinforced by the exposed timber beams that can be seen beneath the pavilion's streamlined raked roof.

The original painted concrete pool, with its formal sandstone bullnose coping, has been transformed into a sleek modern pool with dark Ocean Blue pool tiles and

bluestone dropdown coping. The planting also emphasises the modern aspect of the design with the use of architectural feature plants, namely two Aloe barberae (tree aloes) beside the pool and a large Dracaena draco (dragon blood tree) next to the pavilion.

Garden lighting was an important part of the owners' brief, as they wanted to use the pool and entertaining areas day and night. Landscape Techniques installed LED strip lighting, up and down wall lights, feature spike lights and the custom-made wire pendants that hover over the dining table.

The owners also wanted a fire pit - for some winter heat and a cosy ambience when entertaining — but didn't want it to be woodfuelled. "We were able to source a large ethanol fire housing, which we incorporated into a Corten steel bowl set on a concrete base that was poured insitu," explains Josh.

Concrete was also used for the seating around the fire pit. "The L-shaped concrete bench seat with cantilevered and wooden batten sections allows guests to enjoy the warmth and feel of a fire pit as an extension of the pool pavilion," says Josh.

Throughout, great care has been taken to ensure each zone flows seamlessly into the next and that there is a strong sense of connection between pool, pavilion and home.

PROJECT DETAILS

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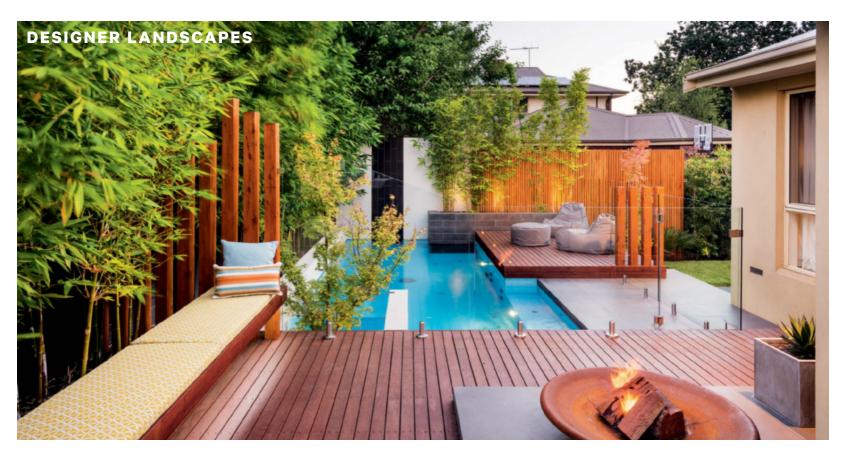




DESIGNER LANDSCAPES







he warm natural tones of the timber and the rich greens of the foliage are offset by the cool grey of the concrete table and the rust finish of the wall art and fire pit. The result is a symphony of materials, colours and textures.

Of modern style, this rear garden is proof positive that you can inject some industrial chic into a design and still have a space that is extremely welcoming. Designed by Steve Taylor of COS Design and built by Matt Seymour and the Apex Landscapes' construction team, this multi-levelled outdoor retreat strikes just the right note whether entertaining friends or simply relaxing with family.

Says Matt, "The main goals were to create a multi-functional outdoor entertaining area that would include a swimming pool and alfresco

dining area, make the change in backyard levels into an asset, and create a more private space."

While this garden is replete with exemplary design features, perhaps the most arresting is the contemporary concrete dining table and complementary barbecue benchtop. The sleek cantilevered benchtop, into which a streamlined Electrolux teppanyaki-style barbecue has been integrated, overlaps the table, making the most of the space and referencing the various layers of the overall garden design.

Adding to the urban styling, there are several items of decor boasting a natural rust finish. This includes the intricately patterned laser-cut wall panel that draws the eye to the dining area, the sculptural Boulder planters placed nearby and the shallow bowl-style, wood-burning

fire pit. The fire pit is the focal point of the conversation area located on the next level down from the dining space. This area features a built-in timber bench topped by cheery custommade seat cushions.

The bench, along with all the other timber elements, was built using merbau timber. The warmth of the timber contrasts with the cooler tones of the custom-cut bluestone paving and pool coping. Bluestone was also used for the vertical feature panel in the wall above the pool, the raised planter box beside it, and the platform upon which the fire pit stands.

For privacy, a mix of vertical timber screens, rendered walls and stands of mature bamboo were employed. The planting, which also includes feature Japanese maples (one of them in a planter box located next to the pool steps), gives the garden an Asian-inspired ambience which is accented, for contrast, with cycads and succulents.

The family now has a contemporary, multifunctional garden they can use day or night, whether entertaining, swimming, or simply lazing about is on the agenda.



Landscape design

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Landscape construction

APEX LANDSCAPES

PHONE (03) 9772 8617

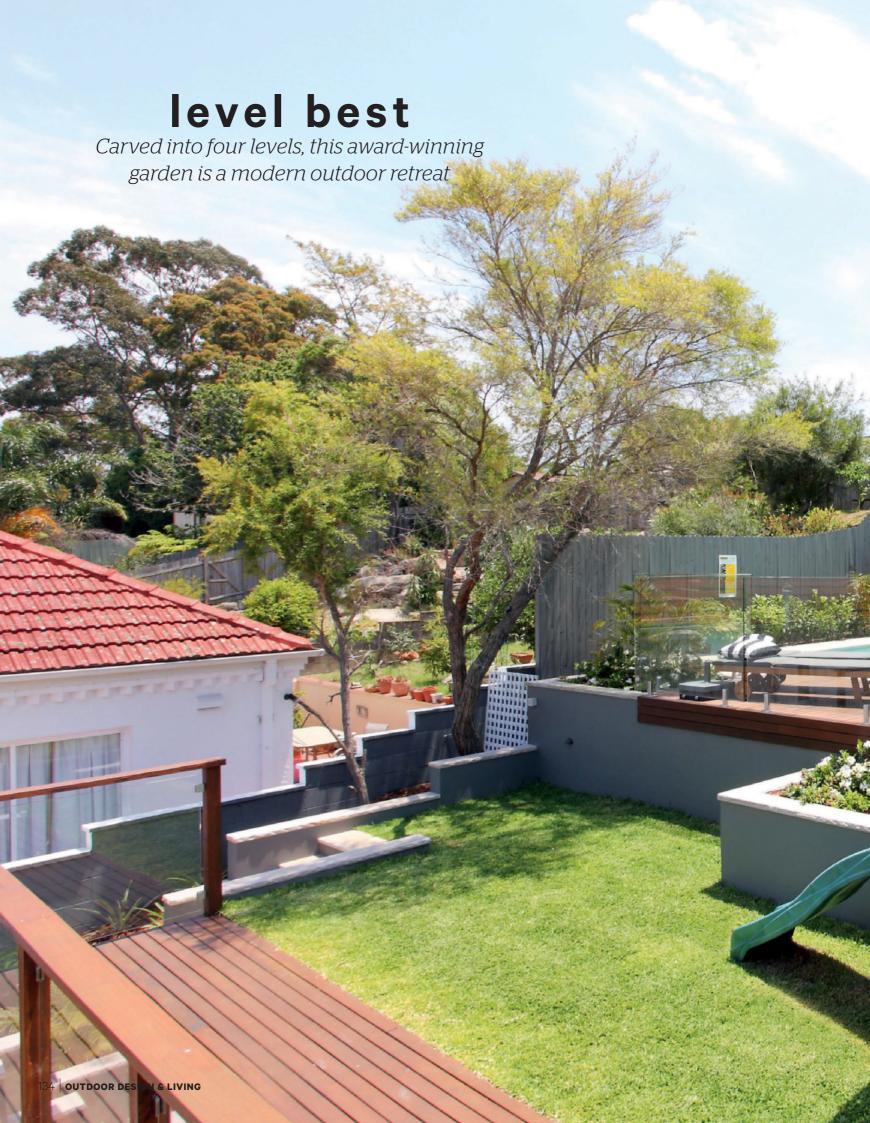
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PHOTOGRAPHY by Tim Turner















steeply sloping garden presents an opportunity to create something aesthetically pleasing and extremely usable — you just need to combine design expertise with construction excellence.

This garden, located in Sydney's northern suburbs, is a case in point. Designed by Julian Brady of Sitedesign Studios and built by Dekker Landscapes, under the guiding hand of company founder, Alex Dekker, it provides the family with the multi-functional outdoor retreat they desired.

The goal was to maximise the space, creating a series of level areas that could be safely used by all the family. Outdoor entertaining was high on the family's agenda and they wanted a garden that had a modern, yet not clinical, look.

The first level is a deck of hardwood timber that flows from the rear of the house. This is a cosy space for lounging and casual meals. The next level offers an expanse of lawn and is furnished with play equipment.

On the third level you find the swimming pool, set within a spacious deck, also built of hardwood timber. As this level proves, with a terraced garden you often have the scope for creating a little drama. Having a pool located at such an elevation creates some of the interest — the remainder comes from the retained rock outcrop.

The upper garden level features a pergola with a solid roof for full sun protection and an outdoor kitchen to make cooking an alfresco meal a breeze. This is where the family does most of its entertaining.

Wide steps, paved in travertine, connect each level. The same stone was used as paving for the pergola-covered upper-level dining space. The warm tones of the travertine complement the sandstone capping used on the rendered retaining walls, adding warmth to the overall design.

Plants play a vital role and perform myriad functions. Screening plants were introduced for privacy, groundcovers were planted to prevent soil erosion, shade-tolerant plants were used next to the lowest-level deck to bring greenery into the space, and the bulk of the rocky outcrop was minimised by the addition of colourful plants.

Creating a sense of flow and maximising sight lines during the day was essential, hence the use of frameless glass fencing. At night, the garden is made a safe and inviting place to be, thanks to the installation of outdoor lighting.

One of the biggest challenges was the difficult access all materials had to be transported along a 900mm-wide pathway at the side of the house, making this a very labourintensive job. Thanks to the skill and dedication of the Dekker Landscapes construction team, however, the family now has a modern outdoor retreat that is the envy of all.

The judges of the LNA Master Landscapers Association's 2016 Landscape Excellence Awards were also impressed by the end result, choosing this project as the winner of the Residential Construction \$150,000-\$300,000 category.

PROJECT DETAILS

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provides the complete holiday-at-home experience

e all like a little luxury ... and that extends to our outdoor living and entertaining spaces. When we step outside, we want to feel as if we're taking a mini vacation. And when we gather around the outdoor dining table or take a dip in the pool, we want to be transported — even if it's only for a short time — far away from the bustle of daily life.

The owners of this garden in the southern Sydney suburb of Dolans Bay can enjoy that holiday-at-home experience any time they like, thanks to the construction expertise of Glenn Simpson Landscapes. When the Glenn Simpson team came on board, a basic design had been outlaid, however as work progressed, this changed dramatically to deliver this relaxed but luxurious garden.







The home is located in an exclusive residential area and as it was a new build, the owners wanted to ensure the landscape would have the right blend of comfort, style and functionality. From the well-orchestrated symphony of textures to the select fittings, every element of this garden has been chosen — and executed — with enormous care.

The construction works were extensive and included the creation of a deck that acts as an outdoor room. This leads directly to the stunning pool with its paved surrounds, built-in timber seating (which provides hidden storage) and raised feature garden bed (clad in stone for a natural but luxurious look). Adding to the resort ambience, jets send arcs of water into the pool and nearby there is an outdoor shower with antique-style fittings.

The choice of materials was critical to the success of this project, which also saw Glenn Simpson Landscapes create a new front entry and driveway. Travertine was used for paving in the pool and outdoor shower areas, the stepping stones throughout the property, as well as the front entrance steps and porch. Sandstone edging was used for the raised planter near the pool and as feature edging for the garden beds on the upper lawn terrace.

Spotted gum timber decking was used for

the entertaining area, adding an element of warmth. This is reinforced by the 1.8m-high merbau vertical-slat privacy screens that run along one side of the garden and block the neighbours' view into the property. For variation and visual interest, different retaining walls were built out of different materials: rendered concrete, timber and masonry blocks, along with sandstone feature cladding.

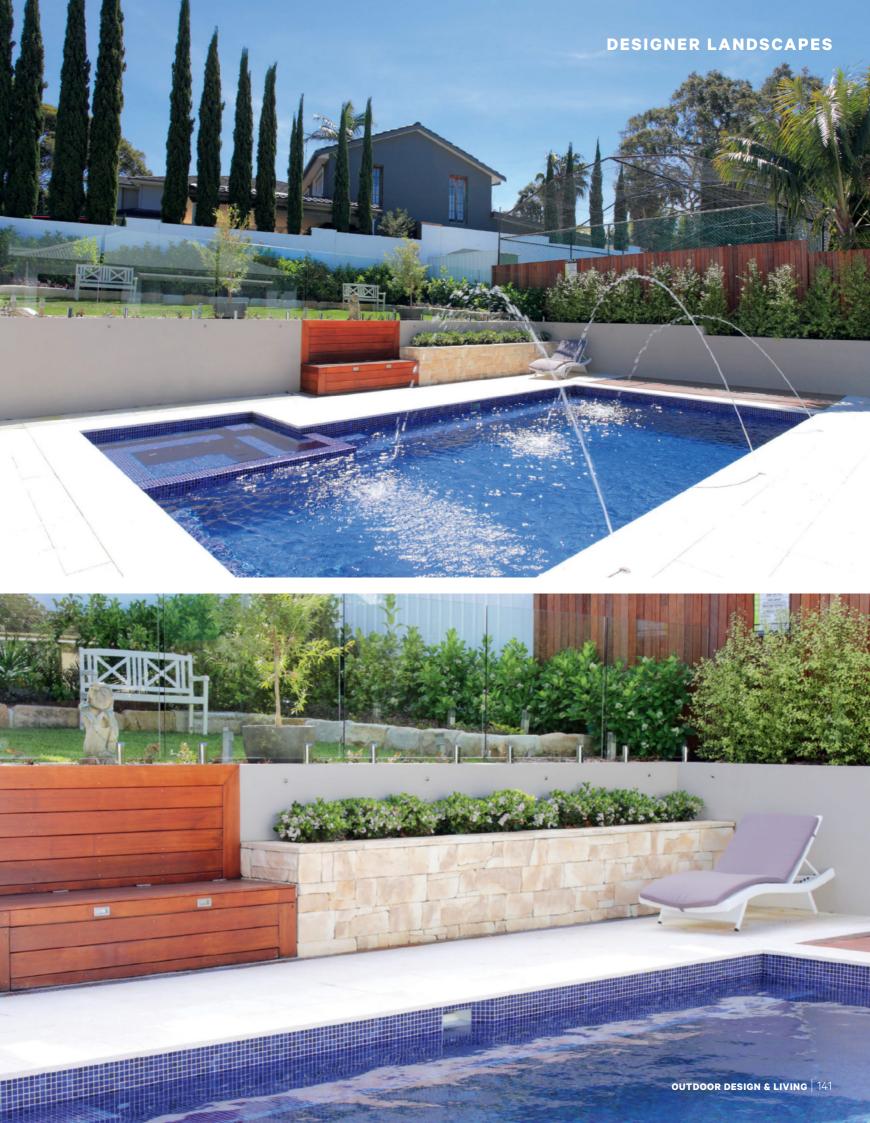
The planting palette has a traditional feel yet perfectly complements — and softens — $\,$ the strong lines of the mainly modern design. Pittosporum 'Variegata' and Murraya paniculata were used for hedging, Fraxinus and Robinia pseudocacacia 'Frisia' as feature planting, Viburnum odoratissimum and Pittosporum 'Gold Sheen' as screening and Trachelospermum 'Tricolour' as groundcover.

The family now have the luxurious garden they dreamed of - a place where they can relax or entertain in style and comfort.

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design and construction GLENN SIMPSON LANDSCAPES PTY LIMITED **PHONE** (02) 9501 3044 $\textbf{EMAIL} \ in fo@glenn simps on lands capes. com. au$

WEBSITE glennsimpsonlandscapes.com.au PHOTOGRAPHY by Peter Brennan











oth the front and rear gardens of this newly built riverside residence in the Perth suburb of Mount Pleasant were a blank canvas, giving landscape designer Ryan Pontifex from Landscapes WA an amazing opportunity to create something fresh, new and really special.

While the owners had a list of things to be included, they left the specifics to Ryan. On the must-have list was a swimming pool, water feature, vegie garden, storage shed and large planters with frangipanis. And there was one additional thing — all outdoor spaces had to provide easy wheelchair access.

The property is located across from the Canning River, so Ryan decided to make the most of the enviable view by locating the swimming pool in the front garden. The spacious surrounds of the modern, clean-lined pool are paved in Bianco travertine with a tumbled finish. Semi-frameless glass fencing on two

sides ensures uninterrupted water views.

In the rear garden, there is a spacious covered deck abutting the home, which is ideal for entertaining or seeking respite from the sun. To create the deck, the Landscapes WA construction team installed NewTechWood UltraShield decking. This timber composite decking is weather- and stain-resistant and never needs to be sanded, oiled or painted. To replicate the look of natural hardwood, decking in the colour lpe was used.

To one side of the deck there is a water wall clad in cultured stone. The texture of the stone and the interplay of different earthy colours add an element of warmth. On either side of the water wall there are built-in planters. These, along with the planters used elsewhere, are constructed of concrete cavity-filled double brick. The smooth lines of the planters are an effective contrast to the organic look of the water wall.

Because ease of maintenance was a

priority, plants that would require minimal water were selected. Similarly, artificial lawn was used in the rear garden to eliminate the need for watering, weeding or mowing.

As the homeowners love frangipanis, incorporating them into the planting palette was essential. As it happens, frangipanis are low-maintenance plants that do well in a variety of locations. This meant they proved a perfect fit with Ryan's easy-care garden plan. Other plants include viburnum for year-round greenery and lomandra for underplanting.

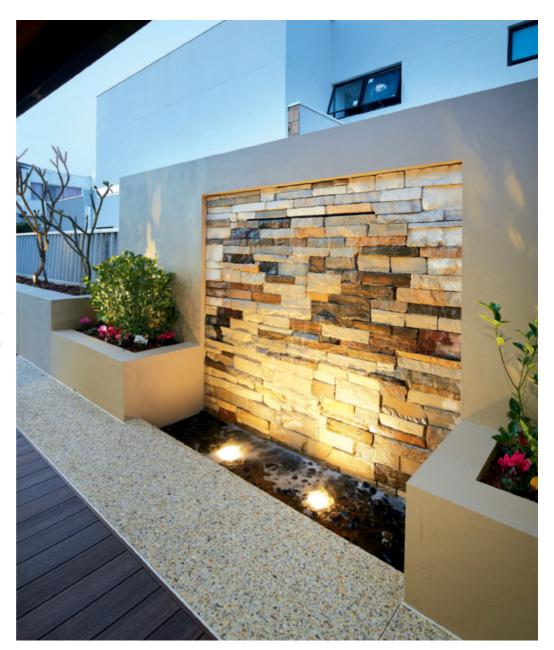
Throughout, Ryan kept the design clean and uncluttered, and the palette of materials and colours pared back. This gives the outdoor spaces a contemporary look and feel. To ensure both front and rear gardens would be longlasting, only high-end products were used, each installed to the highest-quality specifications. This included the LED lighting that transforms the garden come nightfall.

Landscapes WA is a Perth-based landscape company which provides design, construction and maintenance services throughout Western Australia. Since opening for business in 2005, it had become the preferred landscaper for many of the state's premier home builders as well as discerning homeowners.

PROJECT DETAILS

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PHOTOGRAPHY by Ron Tan











ropical-style gardens continue to be popular, and for very good reason. Not only are there many spectacular flowering tropical plant species, there is an abundance of arresting and colourful foliage plants to ensure year-round interest. When you team a tropical planting scheme with a swimming pool, entertaining areas and a water view, you have everything you need to create a garden reminiscent of the most luxurious resort.

"The owners of this Sydney home wanted a tropical-style garden with plenty of colour and plant variety, and they wanted their swimming pool modernised to complement their contemporary house which had just undergone a renovation," explains Amanda Elboz of Space Landscape Designs.

Bringing the large pool into the 21st century was top of the agenda. "Renovating the pool with square-edged coping gave it crisp, clean lines and ensured a modern look. The surrounding area was paved in limestone to give the space texture and character," says Amanda. "We also created an upper-level

terrace overlooking the pool and surrounding gardens which was paved in limestone to give uniformity to the design," she adds.

The main design challenges were minimising the number of new structural elements to be introduced into the garden, ensuring the garden looked as open and free-flowing as possible, and working with the existing mature trees while achieving the goal of creating a tropical-style garden.

"The existing sandstone path which flows through the garden was maintained, avoiding the need for any new retaining walls. Along this path, garden art, statues and water features were all carefully placed amid the fresh new foliage to engender a lush tropical feel and create focal points along the journey," says Amanda.

"Careful selection of plants ensured the existing trees, which provided a good canopy and shade to the garden, would blend into the new design," she continues. "Plants were chosen and then combined to ensure a range of size, form, texture and different foliage colour."

The tropical planting theme was designed

to create colour and textural variation throughout the garden. As you stroll around you will spy large-leafed plants, such as cordylines, bird of paradise, philodendrons, along with those featuring multi-coloured foliage such as variegated star jasmine and variegated shell ginger.

"A garden is a place to live in, not to be admired from afar," says Amanda. "A garden must have a holistic connection to the environment and fully engage all the senses, which we have achieved here. This new design has created a sense of calm and provided the owners with a garden that is full of surprises for guests — the perfect environment to share happy times and build good memories."

PROJECT DETAILS

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PHOTOGRAPHY by Richard Birch



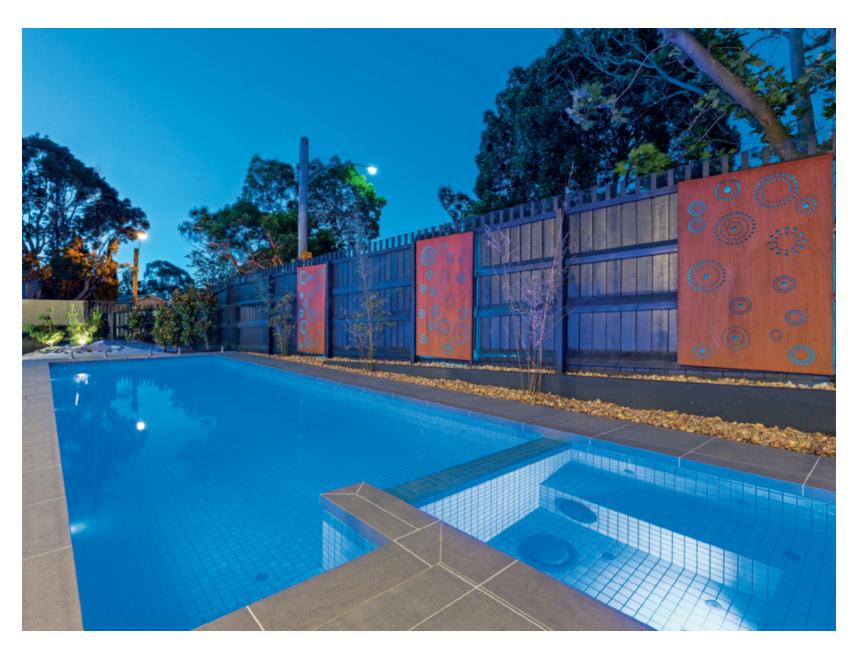














ith its minimalist, Japaneseinspired planting scheme, inviting entertaining areas and elegant, clean-lined swimming pool, this outdoor sanctuary in the suburbs of Melbourne is a serene space in which to relax or gather with friends.

Both the landscape and pool - which is the undeniable centrepiece of the design were designed and built by DJ Landscapes & Pools and are the perfect complement to the modern home, which was designed and built by Stonehaven Homes. While the homeowners wanted the pool to be a feature, they didn't want it to take up the whole garden, so DJ Landscapes & Pools designed a pool and spa that, together, measure $9m \times 3.5m - a$ functional size that meets the family's needs.

The fully tiled, self-cleaning pool, which also incorporates swim jets at the deep end, features contemporary drop-face laminated tile coping and the surrounds are paved in elegant 600mm x 600mm Italian porcelain tiles, all supplied by Earp Bros.



As the owners often work late and return home after dark, they wanted the pool area and the surrounding gardens to be well lit at night. Moreover, they wanted to be able to control everything with ease so DJ Landscapes & Pools recommended AstralPool's Viron Connect 10. This controls the pool and garden lighting, the pool cleaning system and the spa. The owners can operate the system, which AstralPool helped set up, via a smart device, remote or an LED screen inside the home.

AstralPool also supplied the multicoloured pool lighting, which works in harmony with the landscape lighting from Smart Water. This includes Havit spotlights in the gardens and the LED strip lighting that transforms the Corten feature panels into light boxes.

The laser-cut Corten screens, created by Associated Metalworks, feature a pattern called Descending Circles and add interest and colour to the fence line behind the swimming pool. Bamboo was planted between the illuminated screens

to soften the overall look and reinforce the Japanese-influenced planting palette.

Teddy Bear magnolias were planted around the remaining boundary line, which will soon grow to provide a leafy privacy screen. Feature planting includes Japanese conifer bonsai trees rising up from mounds of dwarf mondo grass as well as from large pots.

For ease of watering, DJ Landscapes & Pools installed a water-wise drip irrigation system, supplied by Smart Water. This is operated, via any one of a number of smart devices, by a Hydrawise irrigation controller, also supplied by Smart Water.

There are two inviting spaces for outdoor entertaining, giving the family maximum flexibility. At one end of the garden there is a tiled alfresco living area equipped with heat lamps, a Smeg barbecue built into a granite benchtop, and bifold doors that open up to the pool. At the other end is a deck built using spotted gum timber. This provides a casual open-air space for relaxed dining. Could you ask for more?

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design and construction

DJ LANDSCAPES & POOLS

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Garden lighting and irrigation

SMART WATER

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WEBSITE smartwatershop.com.au

Corten screens

ASSOCIATED METALWORKS

PHONE (03) 9797 3000

WEBSITE metalworks.com.au Pool control system and lighting

ASTRALPOOL

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Paving and tiles

EARP BROS

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Home design and construction

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he first challenge was how to take a small, somewhat triangular space and make it appear a bit bigger. The second involved turning an urban garden into a private oasis, and the third? That required the selection of plants that would look good year-round.

Each of these challenges was met by designer Andrew Plymin, who says of the garden, "The style is loosely formal but with a strong structure created by the repeated use of buxus hedging throughout. The essence of the style is European/French but in many respects, because of the plant selection and finishing decorative touches, it's also what I would describe as inner-city urban."

The crux of the design is the way in which an already small area has been divided into even smaller spaces. These function as a series of rooms in which the use of plants acts as a linking element. And by introducing vertical elements which draw the eye upwards, these spaces don't feel confined.

"Most of this garden is various shades of green, but the size and shape of the leaves varies, sometimes with large- and smallleafed plants used side by side for contrast. This creates drama, which you don't often get in smaller spaces. And I'm not afraid to clip plants to create additional interest."

The paving is Indian limestone offcuts laid in a loose crazy pattern. This is complemented in another part of the garden by a stepping stone path of mosaic pebbles.

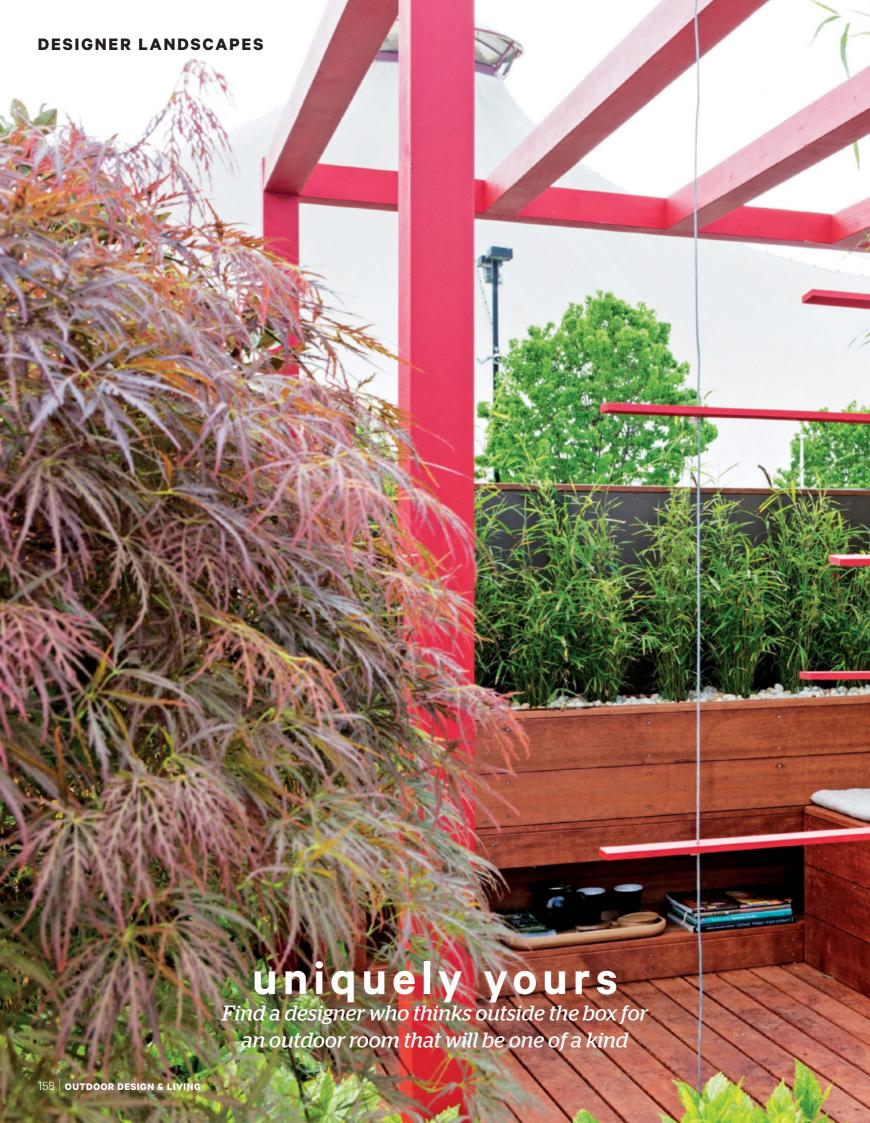
"A roughly rendered blueboard wall works well to hide a neighbouring window while also defining the deck area. It also works as a perfect backdrop to display a double mattress frame, found amid junk left out on a nature strip; it adds interesting texture while tonally complementing the render colour," explains Andrew. "Found objects, especially rusted metal things, go so well with plants and often look like expensive pieces of art when in fact they're free. The trick is not to have too many and to group similar shapes and textures

together instead of scattering them all over the place," he adds.

For Andrew, a well-designed garden is one that doesn't look contrived, nor does it reflect the designer's taste at the expense of the owners'. "It's important to give clients what they want instead of designing what I want, then they are more likely to make a stronger connection with the space," he says. "A designer's job is to gather their clients" thoughts, interpret their needs and wants, and bring them all together as a garden that will stand the test of time. If I can design a garden that does that, then I have achieved what I set out to do."

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design ANDREW PLYMIN GARDEN SPACES MOBILE 0407 772 020 EMAIL aplymin@bigpond.com WEBSITE andrewplymin.com PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond







ncorporating an outdoor living structure that makes a design statement — and provides a comfortable place to gather with friends — is most homeowners' goal. Teamed with a well considered planting palette, a pergola or pavilion can transform a space, adding interest and function.

The key to creating a standout alfresco living space is employing an experienced landscaper and horticulturalist who is not afraid to think outside the box. With more than 12 years' experience, Ross Goodman from Ross Goodman Design has worked with some of the best in the industry. Moreover, he is a member of the Housing Industry Association and Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers.

The company also makes good use of the latest technology in the form of 3D computeraided drawing software. This makes it possible to present plans in the form of an animated model, enabling clients to clearly visualise the space well before it is built.

One of Ross Goodman Design's recent projects featured a striking pergola that was designed as an informal and private place to unwind. In keeping with its Japanese influences, the structure was painted in Dulux Symphony Red, making a bold and regal statement. Along one side there was a screen, comprised of segments of wood, each placed at a different height, which acted as a feature. These elements were contrasted by the warm, natural tones of the merbau timber decking.

Raised planters flanked two sides of the pergola and at the rear, there was a built-in seat. A small shelf was incorporated into one of the planters, adding storage and a clever design feature. Each of these elements was also built using merbau timber.

Painted in Dulux Prehistoric, the dark-grey walls seemed to recede, making the space appear larger. Moreover, they acted as a backdrop for the contrasting green foliage. The plants included Ficus macrocarpa hillii



'Flash', Viburnum odoratissimum and Gardenia jasminoides 'Florida', the last two included for the fragrance of their blooms, along with Acer palmatum 'Atropurpureum', used as a feature tree.

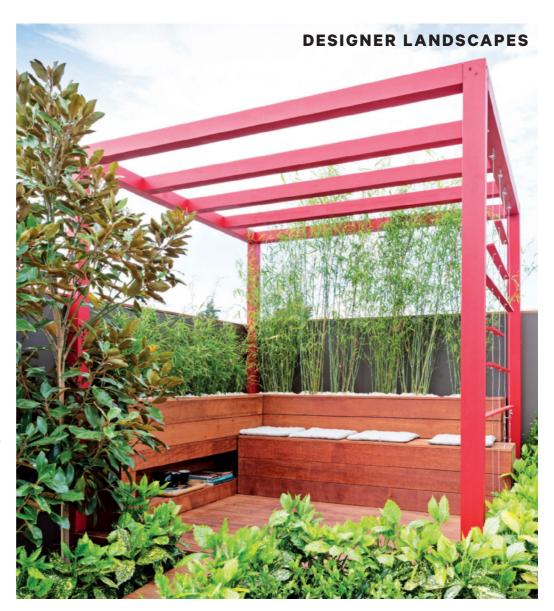
For privacy, bamboo was used in the planter boxes: Himalayacalamus porcatus 'Nepalese Blue', chosen for its striking shape and form, and Drepanostachyum falcatum 'Himalayan Weeping', prized for its lovely drooping leaves. To prevent the bamboo from drying out, the planter boxes were fitted with a pond liner filled with water.

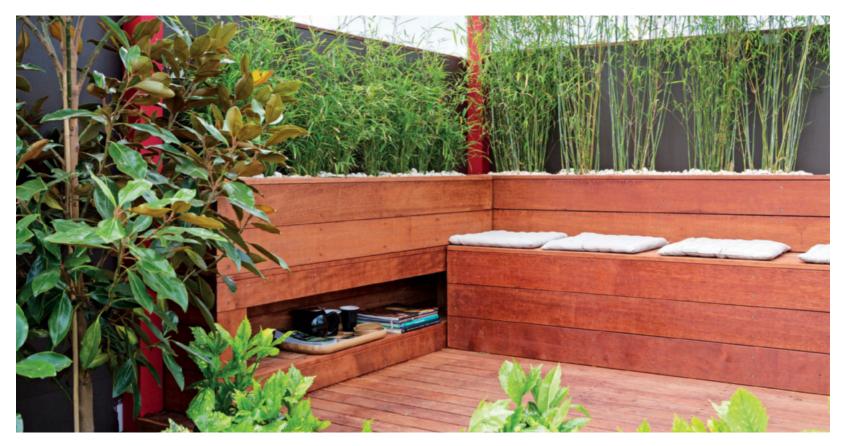
This garden, dubbed Lisa's Garden, was designed for the 2015 Horticultural &Gardening Festival, where it won a bronze medal in the Display Garden Awards. When announcing the awards, the head judge praised the garden for its great sense of scale, inviting design and impressive colour palette.

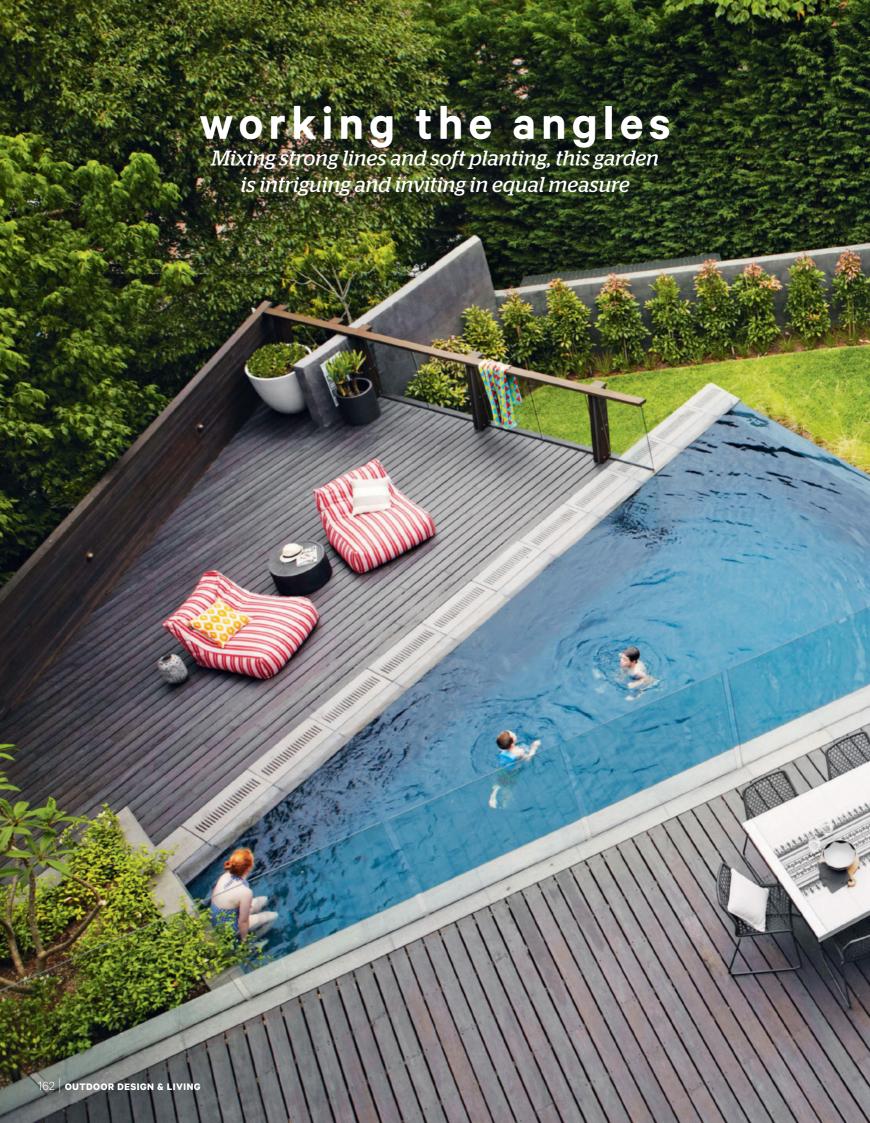
Ross Goodman Design is a boutique landscape design and construction business specialising in small outdoor spaces and courtyards. The company works in Melbourne's inner city and surrounding suburbs, as well as the Mornington Peninsula.

PROJECT DETAILS

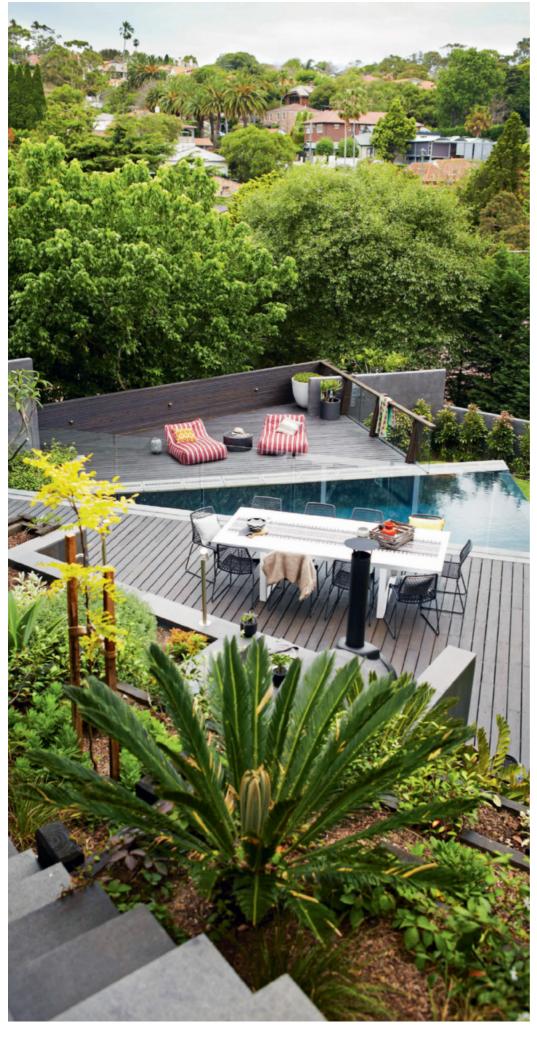
Landscape design and construction ROSS GOODMAN DESIGN MOBILE 0477 975 648 EMAIL hello@rossgoodmandesign.com.au WEBSITE rossgoodmandesign.com PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond











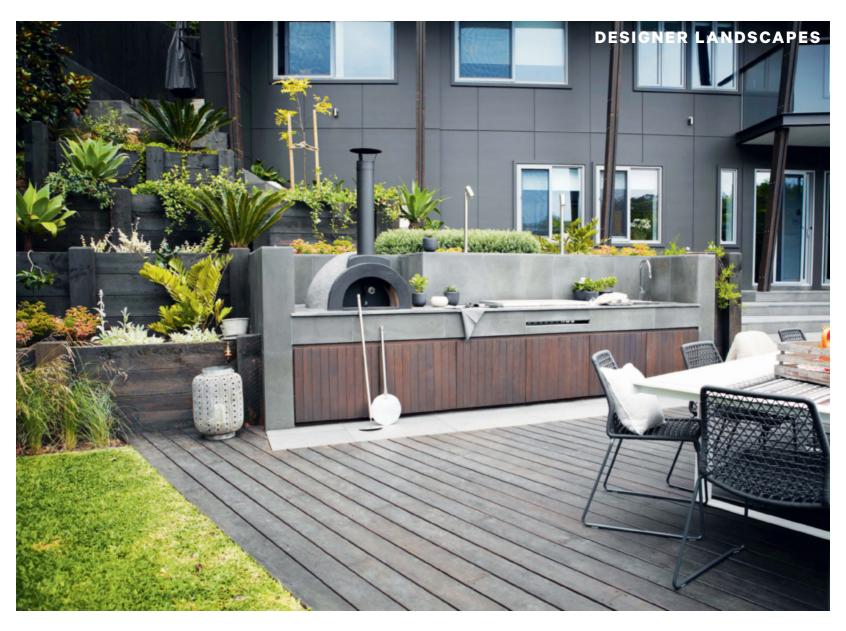
ith a mammoth renovation and extension project finally completed, the owners of this modernised home on Sydney's North Shore were seeking a rear garden design that would have equal impact.

"When I first came to the site to meet with the homeowners, the backyard was basically a dumping ground for the construction site," says designer Josh Harrison from Harrison's Landscaping. "What the owners wanted was a swimming pool with a surrounding area that would provide lounging space for their teenage kids and a garden that would be ideal for entertaining."

As the home is very contemporary, Josh carried that feel into the garden, but only in select elements: in particular, the strong angular lines of the pool and decking, and the sleek bluestone tiles used for the pool coping and paved areas. "The planting was kept informal and very soft to contrast the contemporary look of the house and the hard surfaces in the garden," says Josh.







"Because the house is so big and seems to loom over the garden, I designed the backyard to 'fan out' from the house. This layout not only creates interest, it slowly breaks down the somewhat hard feel of the house the further you venture out into the garden," he adds.

The pool is a key element in the fan shape and its irregularity looks particularly impressive when viewed from the home's upper-storey balconies. The same applies to the two timber decks. These were built using tallowwood, which was stained a darker colour to reference the exterior colour of the house. This also marries with the darkstained cedar screen that was placed along the side of the far deck.

The modern outdoor kitchen is a similarly impressive feature of the reinvented garden. It comprises a built-in, stainless-steel Electrolux barbecue, a woodfired pizza oven, a stainless-steel sink and tap, a servery and an under-counter fridge. Says Josh, "It's such a striking feature and the cedar doors, to which we applied a dark stain, go perfectly with the bluestone benchtop."

Josh's planting palette is informal, as can be seen in the well considered mix of hedging and boundary plants. These include viburnum, Camellia sasangua, Magnolia grandiflora 'Teddy Bear' and Eleaocarpus eumundii. As a feature, a mature frangipani was positioned in a planter box next to the pool and underplanted with star jasmine.

"When I design a garden, I try not to over-complicate things," says Josh, whose company continues to maintain the garden. "My goal is to complement the house and surroundings. And it's important that the garden is designed in a way that suits the family's lifestyle. There's no point designing a high-maintenance garden for a superbusy family. I'd rather they spent their time actually enjoying the garden."

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design

HARRISON'S LANDSCAPING

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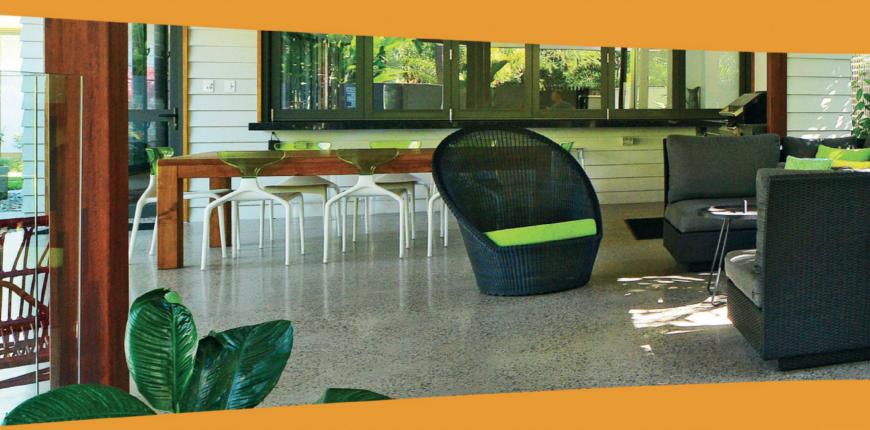
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PHOTOGRAPHY by Natalie Hunfalvay



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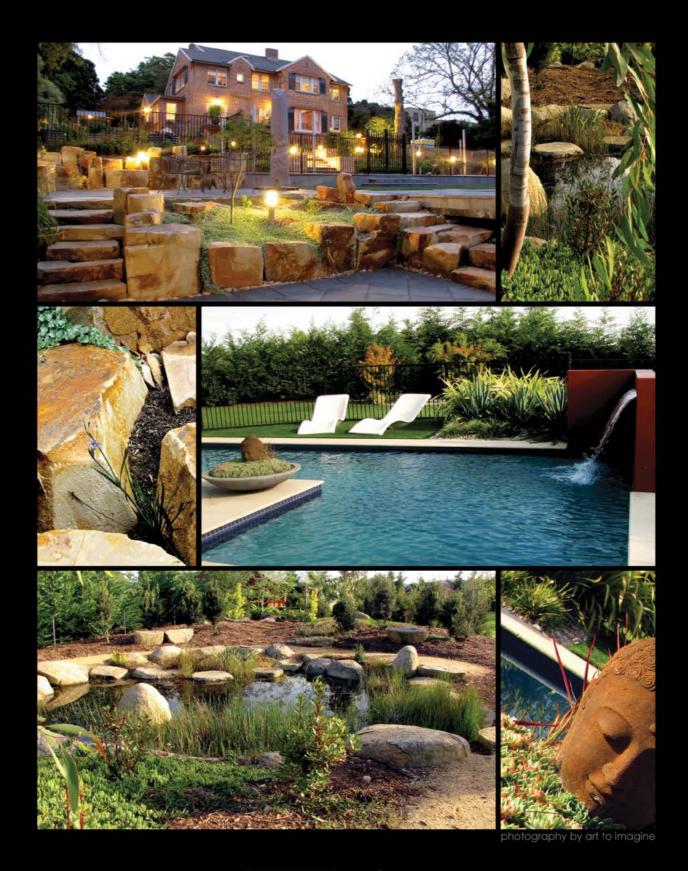
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alfresco living





On the deck or by the pool, if you want to keep your cool, you need a versatile shade solution

Words: Karen Booth

wnings that extend and retract at the press of a button, umbrellas that rotate 360 degrees so different parts of the garden can be shaded, graceful sails that soar overhead — stylish, easy-to-use shade systems are in plentiful supply.

What you choose will depend on myriad factors. Do you want permanent coverage or do you want something flexible? Is it just the sun you want to keep at bay or the rain as well? Is your outdoor living space in a high-wind area or is it overlooked by neighbours? How you answer such questions will help quide you towards the most appropriate shade solution.

Also use a critical eye and look at how people (and pet) traffic flows throughout the space, and examine entry and access points. The shade option you choose shouldn't have bulky fastenings or posts that block or restrict movement.

SCULPTURAL SAILS

If you want something that remains in a fixed position, a shade sail is often a good solution. Standard sails tend to be triangular, rectangular or square but they can be custom-made to any size and shape. To add interest, use a series

of sails, a combination of low and high fixing points, or simply overlap the corners of two sails. In fact, using two or more sails to cover a big area can be a good idea as one very large sail can look a little imposing.

Sails can be UV- and salt-resistant, rainproof and acid-proof. For greater flexibility, you can add a stainless-steel turnbuckle or pulley system, which allows for tension control. Sails on a pulley system can be left up permanently or taken down during the cooler months, usually in a matter of minutes.

Shade sails are a great way to protect a deck, patio or poolside entertaining area, and their versatility is undeniable. You can choose any size, shape or colour you like to fit perfectly into your outdoor living space and lifestyle, providing full sun coverage for even the most casual outdoor room-style setting.

VERSATILE UMBRELLAS

Of course, sails are secured into place and, while there are fixed-position umbrellas, which can be a real asset in frequently used areas, if you want mobility, an umbrella will be the better option. In recent years, there has been a quantum leap in the design and functionality of umbrellas, with the side-post/cantilevered

ABOVE A louvred roof system will allow you to control the amount of shade a verandah or patio receives. Photo courtesy of Louvretec. **OPPOSITE TOP LEFT** Weatherproof blinds and drop-down awnings are two effective options when you want both shade and privacy. **OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT** A shade sail will protect people as well as furniture, such as the Cane-line Diamond dining setting pictured here.

OUTDOOR BLINDS

A smart way to shade an alfresco living area is with an outdoor blind. These are perfect for balconies, patios, decks, verandahs and products to be found at all price points the blind is secured when down, whether it is manually retracted or motorised, and how it is connected to the other blinds next to it (such as zips or a track-guided system).

Standard outdoor blinds are springloaded, manually pulled down, and fastened to the ground with a buckle, strap, rope or a manual winding system and at the higher









umbrella just one of many examples. This has proven a boon for entertaining as you can fit a dining setting beneath the canopy.

The advent of the rotating and/or tilting umbrella is another major plus for those who like a little extra privacy and the convenience of an umbrella whose canopy can be effortlessly repositioned or re-angled as needed.

That doesn't mean the centre-pole $umbrella-the\ traditional,\ market-style$ umbrella that most of us grew up with - is outdated. There are many extremely stylish centre-pole umbrellas in hardwearing materials and fashionable colours, along with a choice of supporting bases.

THATCH IT

in vogue, thatched gazebos and decks appealing. Thatch is nature's eco-friendly

depend on the look you'd like to achieve. For those who like the rustic or tropical look, go for Alang Alang thatching. For those seeking a neater look, there is African Cape Reed thatching. The quality of the thatch itself is very

important. The thicker and denser the Thatch strip spacing is also relevant. The closer the strips the thicker, and the more water-resistant, your roof will be.



AWNINGS THAT AMAZE

Like the umbrella, the awning has also ventured into new territory. For patios, decks and balconies, innovative new-look folding arm and retracting awnings are a sophisticated and functional shade solution. They're typically made of hard-wearing durable PVC or canvas, may be motorised or manually operated, and some feature integrated sun and wind sensor systems.

Some are also designed for use in gusty, high-wind areas. Outrigger's retracting awnings, for example, can withstand winds up to 100km/h while the company's fixed awnings are rated for winds up to 140km/h.

If you need to cover a large space, Markilux sells a conservatory awning and pergola awnings are another good option if you want

shade for those bigger spaces. No matter what style the awning, shapes and colours reflect current architectural design trends making it easy to match them to your home's exterior.

PERGOLA POINTERS

A pergola is another way to provide protection from the sun. You can have a solid roof if year-round coverage is required or, for more flexibility, an automated louvre system. Using a remote control, you can change the positioning of the louvres, adjusting how much light and air gets through. Some systems can be fitted with a rain sensor that automatically closes the louvres when water droplets are detected.

Another option is a retractable sail roofing system, such as the Shaderunner from Shadeform Sails. The canopy, made







Purist design and ground-breaking technology in one

Introducing a brand new cutting edge tensioned awning system by markilux. Whether used as a vertical blind or horizontally installed on top or below a glass canopy, the new tensioned awnings bring a unique combination of purist design and ground-breaking technology.

The markilux 876 tracfix and 879 tracfix units achieve a uniquely high cover tension by way of two special gas-pistons. The 876 tracfix and 879 tracfix are very quiet because the slides in the guide tracks have been optimised to reduce noise.

Would you like your seating area to be protected from wind and weather and still be able to enjoy the view? With the markilux 876 tracfix a see-through pvc window is available up to a width of 4 metres.



SHADE SOLUTIONS





TOP Today's folding arm awnings come in an array of appealing colours. Photo courtesy of Markilux. ABOVE From IKEA, the easy-to-assemble Applaro gazebo is a chic non-permanent shade solution. FAR RIGHT From Cane-line, the Cave swing seat comes with a canopy, providing personal shade.

from rectangular PVC fabric panels supported by aluminium cross battens, can be extended or folded away as needed using a simple-tooperate pulley system.

If do you want a solid roof, think about the ceiling and the view you'll have when you look up. To streamline the look, one option is to use Glosswood prefinished lining boards. If you want full weather protection but diffuse light, another choice is to cover the roof beams with

polycarbonate sheets and place Natureed from House of Bamboo underneath it. This screens out the view of the polycarbonate, softens the look, and adds some natural charm.

CABANAS AND MORE

If you spend a lot of time outdoors in summer and you have the space, a permanent outdoor room-style structure, such as a cabana, can be a great idea. When designing your cabana, strive to make it as multi-functional as possible so you can extend its use throughout the year. For example, it might function as a pool cabana in summer and a games room in winter.

A traditional summer house or period-style gazebo can also be a delightful addition to a garden. Typically positioned away from the house, it may not get the same amount of use

as a shaded entertainment area closer to the action, but it can provide a place of cool, quiet retreat. It can also act as a focal point, adding definition to a garden design.

Depending on size and location, a gazebo could be a simple structure with bench seating or it could be equipped with a table, chairs and a barbecue for outdoor entertaining.

PERSONAL OR PORTABLE

Portable pergolas and gazebos, which can be erected on a patio or on the lawn and then disassembled and packed away at the end of summer, are a good option for those who entertain but don't have the space — or the desire — for a permanent shade structure. These range from budget options to high-end luxury products.

If you just want shade for yourself, there is quite an array of designer outdoor furniture featuring integrated shade solutions, such as canopies that can be angled or swivelled. This option tends to be offered with sun lounge, swing seat and daybed ranges at the luxury end of the outdoor furniture market, so they are usually stylish creations, many of them with a wonderfully sculptural form.

Clearly, there is a vast choice of shade solutions, many of them offering great flexibility, making it easy to find something perfectly suited to your outdoor living space and lifestyle.



COLOUR SPECTRUM

Using lighter colours for umbrellas, shade too busy. And a final word of advice. If you plan to have a fixed shade solution, then because you'll be looking at it all year round.





alk to any proud Australian homeowner about shading solutions and you can be sure they will rank fairly high on the list of home improvement priorities. There's one obvious reason for this — the Australian climate, which is nothing short of extreme in the summer months.

However, whether we're talking foldingarm awnings, pergola awnings, retractable awnings, outdoor window blinds or just outdoor awnings in general, it's also fair to say that these days, choosing an awning is as



much about design as it is about function.

Awnings are such an integral feature of many Australian homes that they are increasingly seen as an investment — one that instantly adds value to a property. If you're looking to sell, this is an outlay that certainly makes sense, and if you're planning to stay put, awnings will certainly enhance your lifestyle.

Awnings, as with everything else, come in many different shapes and styles — and the Markilux range is as impressive as it is extensive. Depending on the size of your outdoor living space and the design of your home, certain styles may be better suited to your needs than others, so here are some of the main choices at your disposal.

As the most popular style offered on the market, folding-arm awnings, also known as retractable awnings, will suit most homes. With the added benefit of being able to be folded away, they don't take up too much space and still provide the shade needed.

If you need to cover a large space, a conservatory awning might be a good option and Markilux has just the thing. The materials used are really strong, so they can cope with extreme weather conditions and can also add the feeling of an extra room to your house,

giving you and your family more living space.

Pergola awnings are another good option if you want shade for a larger outdoor living space. These don't rely on an existing structure so can be an effective solution, no matter how your home is designed. You can also choose adjustable ones that allow you to change the height if needed.

If you're looking to provide shade for an area not connected to the house, freestanding awning systems are a great option; as long as you have the outdoor space, you can place one wherever you like. This is also a popular shading choice for cafes and businesses.

In Australia, during the hot summer months, you often get blasted by the sun - even when you're inside your home. If you're in need of a covering for your window to provide some relief, exterior window awnings are an excellent shading option. These are perfect for those who don't have an outdoor area or live in an apartment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

MARKILUX AUSTRALIA **PHONE** 1300 654 469 EMAIL info@markilux.com.au WEBSITE markilux.com.au







f you're looking to create an extra room for alfresco entertaining, Zipscreen outdoor blinds are the answer. Zipscreen can transform any undercover alfresco space — be it a pergola, verandah, balcony or deck — allowing you to enjoy your outdoor space year-round. Zipscreen does this by reducing the sun's harmful UV rays as well as acting as a barrier against wind, rain and insects. The result is a protected, comfortable and private outdoor space.

The latest innovation for Zipscreen outdoor shades is the revolutionary Ultra-Lock, which provides a semi-automatic locking solution. This means you don't need to manually unlock each side of the shade. The Ultra-Lock allows the fabric to be firmly secured and tensioned on all four sides, creating a crisp, stable solution. When the Ultra-Lock is coupled with Rollease Acmeda's Automate FT motor, you are provided with the ultimate operating solution — a blind that can be automatically closed, locked and tensioned with one simple touch of a button.

The comprehensive suite of Veue Drop Awnings offers four alternative options to Zipscreen, while maintaining the same high



level of aesthetics and finish. Veue Wire Guide offers a discreet cable-guided solution that is great for floor-to-ceiling applications, while Veue Pivot Arm is ideal for awning windows on first- and second-storey levels. Veue Channel Guide, which features a slimline, unfastened side quide ideal for sheltered areas around the home, and the entry-level Veue Straight Drop, offering a simplified solution which is secured to the floor by easy to operate buckles or clips.

To find out more about these exciting

developments in outdoor blinds and awnings, along with details of your nearest supplier, visit the Zipscreen website.

Zipscreen and Veue Drop Awnings are available Australia-wide, which means Australian homeowners anywhere can enjoy the lifestyle-enhancing benefits these stateof-the-art shade solutions provide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ZIPSCREEN

WEBSITE zipscreen.com.au



Rollease Acmeda's Zipscreen external shade system provides an inside feel for any outdoor entertaining area. Ideal for pergolas, verandas and balconies, Zipscreen turns alfresco areas into a comfortable new room, offering protection from the elements without interrupting the view.

Easy to operate, Zipscreen can be opened and closed manually or motorised, offering control at the touch of a button.

Zipscreen external blinds can be custom made up to 7 metres wide, in a colour and fabric to suit your outdoor design.

Zipscreen is cross compatible with our new Veue Drop Awnings suite, utilising the same look and feel across various applications.



ZIPSCRŒN

VEUE DROP AWNINGS



SUN/UV PROTECTION



INSECT RESISTANT



WIND RESISTANT



PRIVACY



COASTAL APPROVED

Limited to zone C3, Corrosive zone classes AS 4312-2008



rolleaseacmeda.com | Outdoor Shades









head for cover

To get the most from your outdoor living space, you need a flexible and stylish shade solution

hen the goal is to get maximum use out of your alfresco living area, you need an effective form of climate control - and to get the best solution for your individual requirements, you need expert advice. Shadeform Sails specialises in the design, manufacture and installation of high-quality shade sails and blinds, also retractable sails and awnings.

Shadeform's hugely popular Shaderunner retractable shade system offers maximum versatility — and sophistication. Drawing on the company owner's background in sail making for the yachting industry, Shadeform created a sturdy and stylish system with an attractive nautical appearance. The Shaderunner utilises Ronstan ball-bearing sailing pulleys, is supported by stainlesssteel wires for strength and longevity and its design ensures maximum flexibility.

The chic Shaderunner complements all architectural styles, from contemporary suburban homes to traditional or classic country residences. Moreover, the extensive

range of fabric colours and the timeless styling of the retractable sail system make the Shaderunner the preferred choice of the discerning homeowner.

With today's high energy costs and the required six-star efficiency rating for all new homes, the Shaderunner is a cost-effective way to help achieve energy efficiency and provide thermal comfort. The Shaderunner does this by providing retractable shade to reduce the need for summer cooling while still allowing in sunlight, when required, to maximise winter solar gains.

A simple but very effective retractable shade system perfect for the home outdoor entertaining area, the Shaderunner allows the user to control the degree of shade it provides. You have the choice to fully extend, partly extend or neatly fold it away to allow the maximum amount of sunlight into your outdoor living space and internal rooms when desired.

There is a choice of either a 95 per cent polyester-mesh fabric or fully waterproof PVC fabric, both of which offer protection

from glare and the sun's harmful rays. The fabrics are also mould and mildew-resistant and fire retardant.

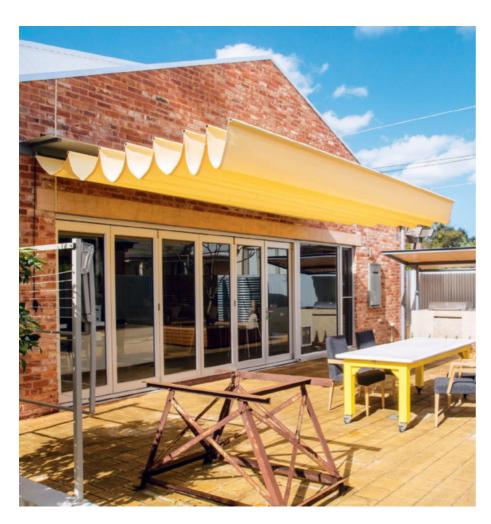
Available in a manual or motorised version, the Shaderunner can fit within or under existing pergola structures. If starting without support structures, or if you need to span long distances, posts can be installed specifically to support the system.

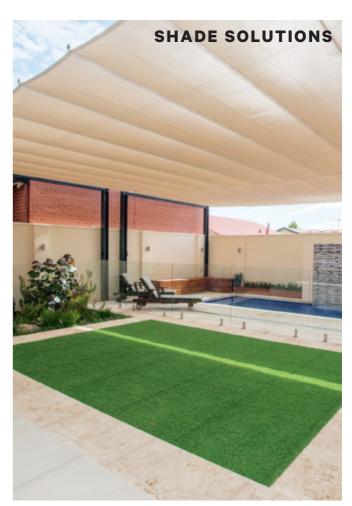
With distributors in all states, Shadeform can arrange full installation of the Shaderunner or it can supply the system in package form if you would like to install it yourself. Shadeform can also arrange supply or installation for its other shade products, which include folding-arm awnings, shade sails, side- and centre-post umbrellas, and external blinds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SHADEFORM SAILS

212 Grange Road, Flinders Park SA 5025 PHONE (08) 8354 2116 EMAIL enquiries@shadeformsails.com.au WEBSITE shadeformsails.com.au









f what you want is an outdoor living space you can use year-round, you need the experts from Outrigger Awnings & Sails. Outrigger specialises in the creation of high-quality custom-designed shade and rainproof fabric structures for all domestic and commercial applications. Designs include retracting, batten and cantilevered awnings, awnings for carports and pergolas, as well as shade sails and outdoor blinds.

Designed for strength and longevity, Outrigger's impressive awnings are the ideal choice when you want year-round coverage in a high-wind area. Outrigger retracting awnings can withstand winds up to 100km/h while the company's fixed awnings are rated for winds up to 140km/h.

All awnings are custom designed and engineered by company owner Andrew Perry and fabricated in the Outrigger factory in Sydney, so you can be assured each product will be specifically tailored to your site and your preferred design. In addition, all Outrigger awnings are made using the highest-quality fabric and fittings so you can expect them to last 18-25 years.

Outrigger retracting awnings are a popular choice as they offer aesthetics, strength and flexibility. They also have an exceptionally robust design, which means they can be left out in reasonably high wind and heavy rain. Moreover,



the sleek, modern look will complement any architectural design and they can be extended or retracted with absolute ease.

Installation can be arranged within a 200km radius of Sydney (by Outrigger staff) and a free quotation and design service is available for clients anywhere in Australia, or the world. You just need to supply photos, sketches or drawings of the area to be covered and the design process will be conducted by phone, fax or email, after which you will receive a written quotation and a drawing.

As an experienced engineer who has been designing awnings since 1994, Andrew Perry has the expertise to create the perfect shade or rain solution just for you, so contact Outrigger today for your custom creation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

OUTRIGGER AWNINGS & SAILS

PHONE (02) 9905 8473

EMAIL info@outriggerawnings.com.au WEBSITE outriggerawnings.com.au **PHOTOGRAPHY** by Peter Brennan





ENJOY THE OUTDOORS ALL YEAR ROUND WITH A CUSTOM DESIGNED AWNING









OUTRIGGER CUSTOM DESIGNS awnings and sails to virtually any shape, size or colour - to create a functional and stylish outdoor living area for your home or business. Whether you need privacy, rain or sun protection, our factory in Sydney will design and manufacture an awning to suit you. No matter what the weather, an Outrigger awning will have you covered. Designs include retracting awnings (manual or motorised), sails, batten awnings, stylish carports, outdoor blinds and cantilevered awnings.

Call us now or visit our website for your free design consultation.























OUTDOOR COOKING



he Weber Q is Australia's favourite barbecue. People love it for its versatility and durability, but above all, for the flavour of a Weber Q meal. And the Weber Family Q Built In — the latest evolution of the Weber Q range - is no exception. It has the same amazing cooking system, features and appearance as the Weber Q range, turned into an outdoor kitchen masterpiece. With its stunning looks and clever design, this sleek built-in barbecue will become the focal point of your outdoor kitchen and allow you to create outdoor meals with that sensational Weber flavour for many years to come.

The Weber Family Q Built In is designed to fit into a standard 600mm (or larger) outdoor kitchen bench, making tailoring a design for installation simple. You can do this yourself, or if you prefer, trained Weber technicians

offer a delivery, assembly and installation service in capital cities around the country.

Why do people love the Weber Family Q Built In so much? It's simple: unbelievable flavour and versatility, all with the convenience of gas. The Weber Q cooking system can take simple Australian barbecue favourites and transform them into juicy, mouthwatering masterpieces. It's not just the amazing barbecues, though. By using Weber Q accessories, you can transform your Weber Q into a brilliant convection oven or rotisserie cooker

Your Weber Q will cook roasts with that famous Weber flavour: chicken, beef, lamb, even perfect pork crackling. The Family Q Built In will also bake perfect pizzas, cakes and muffins, just like in the oven. In fact, this product is so versatile it's like having all your kitchen cooking appliances rolled into

one, helping to keep the kitchen clean, tidy and free of heat and smells. Imagine never having to clean the oven again!

So how does it work? Weber flavour is legendary around the world and Australians have been enjoying it since the 1970s, but not many people know how that flavour is created. It comes from the barbecue smoke that's circulated around the meat while it is being cooked. This is a unique Weber trait and it's what has made Weber flavour famous the world over.

All Weber Q barbecues (even when searing a steak or grilling a sausage) are operated with the lid down. The barbecue smoke is circulated around the food inside, imparting that fabulous flavour to your favourite meals. So the famous Weber barbecue flavour is created by both searing the meat on the hot enamel-coated cast-iron cooking grill and the natural convection that circulates barbecue smoke all around the meat. It's this flavour that is the hallmark of the Weber Q cooking system.

At Weber, quality and performance is at the very heart of the company's culture. Weber knows that performance, appearance and durability is what counts in the backyard barbecue, and that's why Weber uses only the highest-grade materials, chosen to weather the elements and to stand the test of time.

The Weber Q Family Built In is constructed from high-quality, 304-grade stainless steel and no-rust cast aluminium to stand up to even the harshest outdoor environments Inside, there's a rust-resistant, enamelcoated cast-iron cooking grill and a stainless-steel burner system that means the Family Q Built In will perform like brand new for years. In fact, Weber guarantees it. The Weber Family Q Built In comes with a five-year warranty backed by one of Australia's most trusted customer service and technical support teams.

Talk to anyone who has had reason to deal with Weber customer service and they'll tell you the same thing — the experience is second to none. Add to that a team of trained technicians and specialists around the country who are ready to support Weber customers on-site with anything from technical issues to cooking enquiries and you have total peace of mind.

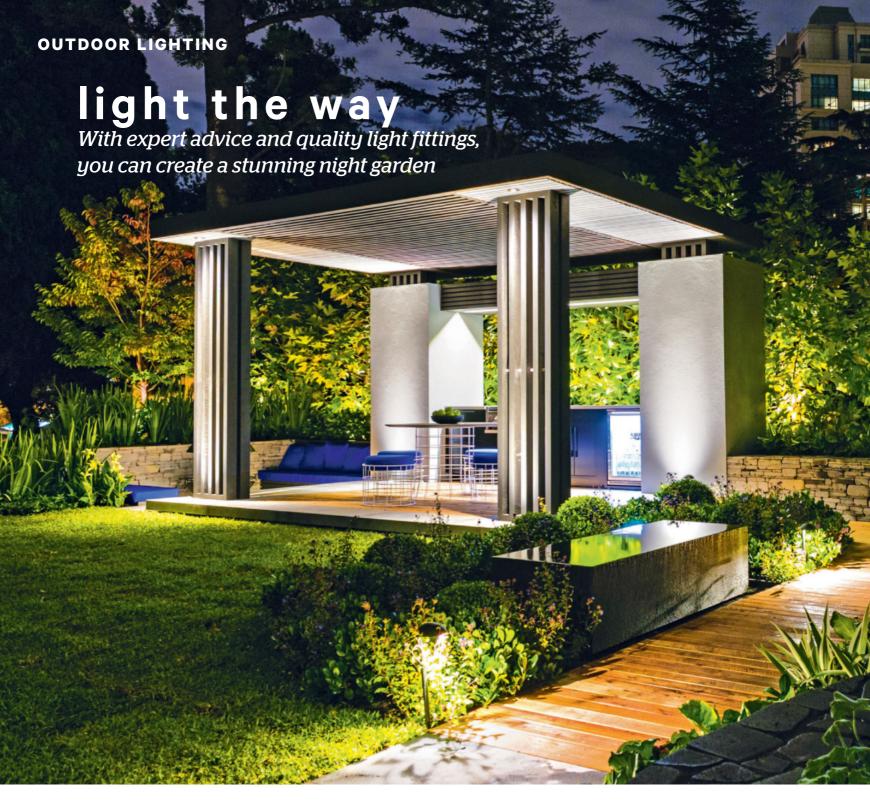
The Weber Family Q Built In is exclusively available through Weber Specialist Dealers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WEBER BBQ WEBSITE weberbbg.com.au WEBER SPECIALIST DEALERS WEBSITE theweberspecialist.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond





ighting has become an essential part of any quality landscape — not just an afterthought once the project has been completed. Established in 1989, Gardens at Night specialises in the design of premium lighting systems and the manufacture of specialised lighting products for the outdoor environment. Designing and supplying projects all over Australia, ranging from inner-city courtyards to suburban home gardens and vast country landscapes, Gardens at Night can help you enhance and reveal the beauty of your garden in the way that only landscape lighting can.

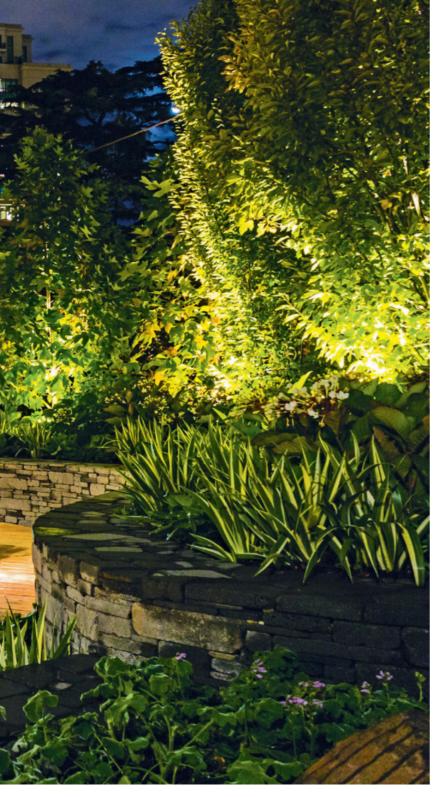
To guarantee superior outcomes every time, meet the highest demands for product quality

and architectural design, and provide the latest finishes, Gardens at Night manufactures its own range of quality products, specifically suited to the Australian outdoors.

Using only the highest-quality Cree LED and electronics and the highest-quality anticorrosion construction materials (such as brass, copper and stainless steel), and with a range of architectural finishes to suit any home, Gardens at Night's lighting products and systems will give you peace of mind for

"We aim to provide a quality, value-formoney product and the best service possible for the discerning homeowner, architect or contractor looking for a quality finishing touch for their home or landscape project," says Blair Thomson, managing director of Gardens at Night. "Rebuilding our business from the ground up over the last four years has been the best thing we've ever done," he adds. "We are now vertically integrated from product concept design and electronic and product engineering through to manufacturing and sales, providing the highest quality and value to our clients."

Gardens at Night's expert staff can offer advice on design and fitting selection, and answer any technical questions, so clients have all the information they require to install their landscape lighting. Gardens at Night also has conveniently located offices





in Melbourne and Sydney and a local and interstate shipping network that enables the company to deliver anywhere in Australia.

If you are an architect, landscape designer, contractor or homeowner looking for quality outdoor lighting products to add the finishing touch to your project, Gardens at Night has the expertise you need.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

GARDENS AT NIGHT Sydney office: PHONE (02) 9439 9155 Melbourne office: PHONE (03) 9824 4937 WEBSITE gan.com.au







inspired by nature No matter what the time of year, a natural water

feature is a source of endless delight in a garden

he owner of this five-acre property near Hanging Rock in Victoria wanted something special — a natural water feature that would seamlessly connect the land with the home. But it needed to be multi-functional, not just aesthetically pleasing, providing fire protection, a habitat for frogs and other local wildlife, as well as somewhere to sit, ponder and cool off. In short, it needed to be a centrepiece for the owner's rural dream.

Waterscapes Australia carried out an on-site assessment to determine the best position and size for the ecosystem billabong. Explains company owner Patrick Handley, "We wanted the ideal aspect, one where the flow of the existing landscape and surrounding panoramas would converge and integrate the design. At 11m x 17m, the feature is large but well scaled

"A large boulder, spotted in a local rock pile, bares the remnants of an artesian bore hole and worked perfectly as a waterfall into the wetland," he continues. "The Waterscapes Australia crew has a good eye for aesthetics and will always add elements not initially planned as the project unfolds and the creativity flows. Select pieces of the boulder were used as stepping stones across a narrower end of the billabong, where they appear to float."

This well-designed ecosystem billabong features a filter area inhabited by naturally occurring beneficial bacteria that capture and process nutrient loads in the water. Rushes, reeds and edible aquatic plants, such as watercress, were planted in the wetland filter and the entire floor of the billabong is covered with pebble, which acts as supporting filtration for the system. Iris, marsh marigold and water lilies are examples of the many aquatics in the marginal zones. There are even a few Murray cod. A stream connects the billabong with the wetland filter that is the heart of the ecosystem.







"We look at a garden as a blank canvas then set about designing and building an amazing masterpiece inspired by nature, be it a rock pool, stream, garden pond or natural swimming pond," says Patrick. "We include many of the elements found in a natural stream or rock pool and we use equipment from Aquascape Supplies Australia that is specifically designed for natural water features, and a construction

style that promotes a healthy pond ecology."

Having a water feature isn't just about the aesthetics, of course. "The sound of running water creates a special atmosphere," says Patrick. "Kids love to play around streams — it really encourages imagination and reflection and having the ability to jump in a pond and cool down is priceless. Water brings a landscape to life with motion and sound and, along with the

many environmental benefits, such as attracting birdlife, truly becomes the heart of any garden."

With more than 20 years of global experience in the design and construction of ponds and water gardens, Waterscapes Australia has the expertise to create the water feature of your dreams. Whether it's a small patio pond, a large acreage project or a swimming pool conversion, Waterscapes Australia gives the same attention to detail and invests the same creativity into all of their designs.

"We aren't just limited to waterscaping," adds Patrick. "We offer a maintenance service on top of our Australia-wide consultation, design and construction services. We can also do general landscaping and hardscaping as building a stream, rock pool or natural swimming pond is only painting half of the picture."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

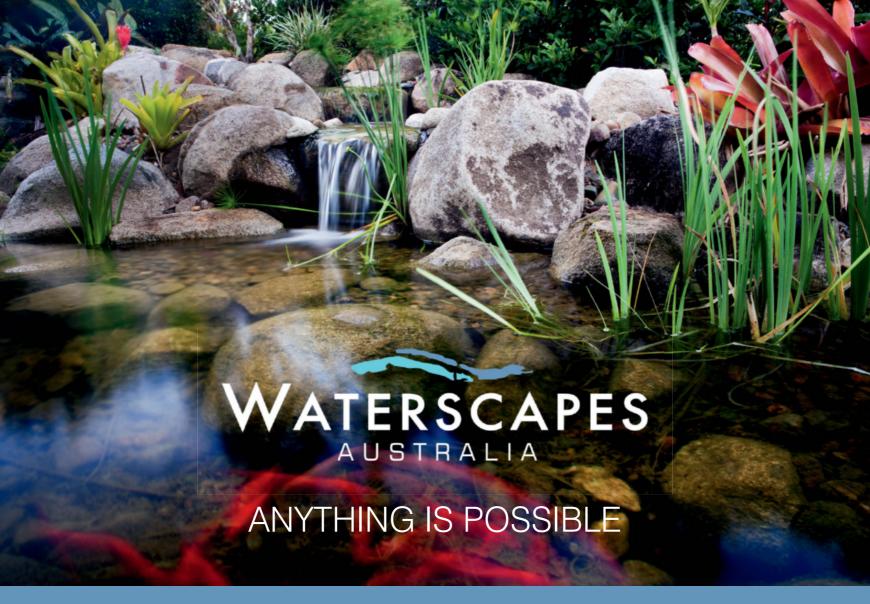
WATERSCAPES AUSTRALIA

7 Pioneer Road, Yandina Qld 4561

PHONE (07) 5446 8700

EMAIL create@waterscapesaustralia.com.au WEBSITE waterscapesaustralia.com.au

FACEBOOK facebook.com/waterscapesaustralia PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond



Waterscapes Australia provides a benchmark for the design and construction of natural water systems in Australia and internationally. Lakes, natural rock pools, recreational ponds, fish ponds, waterfalls, creeks and small ornamental courtyard features are all carefully designed to blend and enhance the existing landscape and create a living centrepiece that invites exploration and serenity. The specific equipment and construction style also incorporates natural stone.

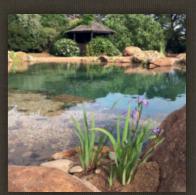
aquatic plants, fish and beneficial bacteria, all working together to create a healthy ecosystem which means a radical reduction in maintenance and the costs associated. We take our inspiration from nature and include many of the elements found in a natural stream or rock pool in our creations. Waterscapes Australia work in a unique way to create award winning water features which invoke an escape from everyday life into your own private oasis.

PROJECTS AUSTRALIA WIDE



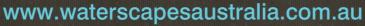








7 Pioneer Road Yandina, Queensland 4561 (07) 5446 8700 | create@waterscapesaustralia.com.au









keeping up appearances Preserve and enhance the natural beauty of your timber with

this premium quality range of advanced woodcare products

ou'd be hard-pressed to find a company in the coatings industry whose origins date back as far as those of Sikkens. Founded in the Netherlands in 1792, Sikkens enjoys a timehonoured reputation for industry leadership and superior quality in translucent wood-stain products. That tradition entered the Australian market in 1974 and continues today, with Sikkens a recognised leading provider of professional wood surface coatings.

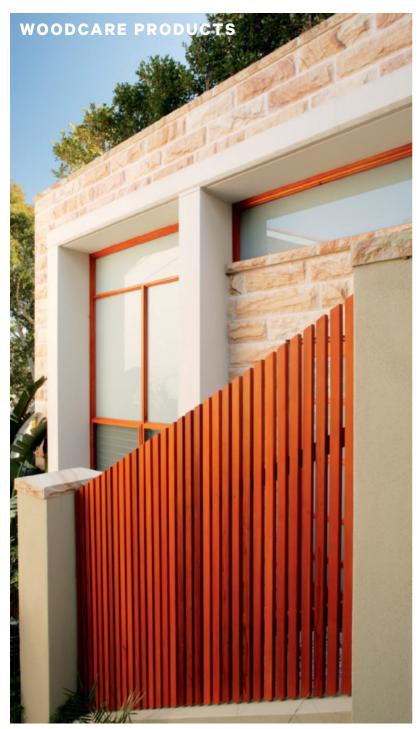
Over the years, Sikkens has been the preferred choice of architects, builders, painters and DIY-ers seeking a superior finish. Its specially developed formulas provide the answer to the demand for a transparent, highquality coating that will enhance the natural attractiveness of wood and provide the optimum level of protection in all situations.

Sikkens' innovative woodcare range is one of the first woodcare ranges to be microporous. This means the coatings allow the timber to breathe while repelling unwanted moisture, making them ideally suited for use on both interior and exterior timber.



For timber decks, cladding, fences, outdoor furniture, windows and doors, choose from the Sikkens Exterior Woodcare range, which is designed to provide unrivalled looks, durability and performance on all types of exterior wood. Inside the home, Sikkens Interior Woodcare range maximises the beauty of timber doors, window frames, parquetry flooring as well as wall and ceiling cladding with formulas that resist fading and are non-yellowing.







As exposure to outdoor sunlight, indoor heating and cooling systems, not to mention knocks and spills, can affect the look of timber, applying a protective coating is important for long-lasting protection. A popular choice is Sikkens Cetol BLX-Pro, a quick-drying water-based timber finish that provides good durability and flexibility. Its water-based formula ensures minimal odour, making it ideal for indoor and exterior applications, and re-coating is possible within two hours. Its transparent finish accentuates the natural look and colour of the timber.

Sikkens Cetol BLX-Pro comes in five readymixed shades: Pine, Light Oak, Dark Oak, Teak and Walnut. However, if you are unsure which colour would best suit your project, Sikkens is

dedicated to making the process as simple as possible with its 100ml sample pots. Available in five ready-mixed colours, they are the perfect way to test a colour so you can choose with confidence before completing a project.

The use of timber often adds a touch of nature and brings warmth to interior and exterior projects. A properly maintained timber structure, be it a deck, built-in bench, battenstyle screen or parquetry flooring, is an asset in more ways than one. Keep it looking good and you'll reap the benefits longer. Not only that, when it comes time to sell your home, it will add immeasurably to your property's re-sale value.

With more than 200 years in the woodcare field, Sikkens is known for its long-lasting, premium-quality products. If you want to

maintain the natural colour and beauty of timber features in and around your home, provide a protective barrier from the effects of exposure to harsh UV light and ensure longevity, choose Sikkens. Products are available through most specialist paint and hardware stores, including Bunnings, Mitre 10, Paint Place, 3D Inspiration Centres, Paint Spot and Bristol Decorator Centres.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SIKKENS

PHONE 1300 SIKKENS (74 55 36)

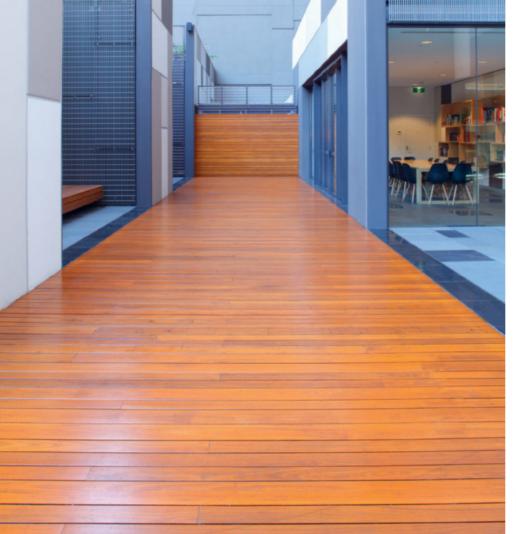
EMAIL sales@tenaru.com.au

WEBSITE sikkens.com.au

FACEBOOK facebook.com/sikkensaustralia INSTAGRAM instagram.com/sikkensaustralia



UV & WEATHER RESISTANT | WOODGRAIN REMAINS VISIBLE | EASY APPLICATION | SIMPLE MAINTENANCE





sikkens

For more information

Telephone: 1300 SIKKENS (745 536)

Email: sales@tenaru.com.au www.sikkens.com.au













vision of beauty

Wood-look aluminium proves the perfect choice for this home's custom-designed screens

s the saying goes, "A man's home is his castle". In this case, a very happy family has a castle for a home. This beautiful residence in the Melbourne suburb of Moonee Ponds is, in effect, a modern-day castle with all the trimmings to make it not only an architectural masterpiece, but a comfortable family home.

No expense was spared in the design and construction of this project. With a

design brief that included the use of lowmaintenance materials, custom-designed screens and bold architectural lines, considerable care was taken to perfect each design detail — and choose precisely the right products. Queensland-based Chris Clout Design and Q-Image Construction, a company that services the Melbourne area as well as south-east Queensland, teamed up to bring this glorious vision to life.

With no shortage of challenges to meet, both builder and architect had to think creatively and thoroughly consider every element. One of the most striking elements the custom-designed screens — proved one of the most challenging. Several materials were considered for the build but Knotwood, with its lightweight construction, durability in the harsh outdoor elements and stunning timber-look finish, was the only material that fitted the bill in every way.

These screens simply would not have been possible without Knotwood as any other material would degrade over time, compromising the design intent of the architect, the construction expertise of the builder and the overall look of the home.

According to Zach Davis from Q-Image Construction, "The screens were by far the most challenging part of this project. The Q-Image team went to a lot of effort to use concealed fixings to create the seamless 'floating' design specified. The spider weblike screens have the effect of leaving the viewer guessing as to what's holding them together. I love that about an architectural statement — it gets you thinking, imagining and admiring. The screens are a great tribute to the skill of our team and the end result speaks for itself."

Not surprisingly, this impressive home has been nominated for several design and construction awards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

KNOTWOOD

PHONE 1300 KNOTWOOD EMAIL sales@knotwood.com.au WEBSITE knotwood.com.au Q-IMAGE CONSTRUCTION WEBSITE gimage.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHY by Patrick Redmond









A deep-penetrating invisible sealer designed to protect natural stone, paving and walling

ith the right treatment, it's easy to keep even the most porous natural stone and paving, as well as tile and brick, looking great for many years. Treating a porous surface with the right impregnating sealer also makes cleaning easier.

Staining is the most common problem affecting porous materials such as stone paving and steps, but there are other common types of damage. Water can be harmless but if stone or paving is wet for long enough, mould and bacteria can take hold and the

material can be softened and weakened. Water also contains minerals (salts) that can leave unsightly residues or stains and even cause major corrosion of pavers and tiles.

Australia is a land of innovation and it's no surprise the world's most advanced impregnating sealers for protecting porous surfaces come from Dry-Treat, a proudly Australian company.

Dry-Treat's invisible impregnating sealers provide many advantages over traditional topical (coating) and impregnating sealers. "Our technology comes down to two

basic things," says Dry-Treat's global marketing manager, Gabriel Chapman. "Our impregnating sealers penetrate much deeper and our special water- and oil-repelling molecules actually bond permanently inside the treated material so you get a very deep and long-lasting barrier of protection."

Dry-Treat's flagship STAIN-PROOF sealer not only protects natural stone, paving and tiles against stains to keep them looking good, it also maintains the slip resistance of the surface, retards moss and mildew growth





and makes the surface easier to clean. A 15year performance warranty is available when STAIN-PROOF is applied by an accredited applicator, although the simple application instructions have made it very popular for DIY use as well.

"Dry-Treat's reputation has spread over 30 countries, largely by word of mouth, because our sealers really do work," says Gabriel. "Today, STAIN-PROOF protects thousands of homes and many well-known, iconic public facilities including the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the BBC Scotland headquarters, the Dallas Cowboys stadium, various city malls as well as famous hotels and monuments. So we are very comfortable backing our products with extraordinary warranties."

For comprehensive product information and contact details of Dry-Treat dealers and accredited applicators, call the number below or visit the website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DRY-TREAT PHONE 1800 675 119 WEBSITE drytreat.com





wonder walls

Whether for practical or decorative purposes, a gabion wall is an asset in any outdoor space

three-hour drive south of Sydney, Abercrombie Ridge is a country estate located on 133 acres set within beautiful countryside in the Southern Tablelands. Since 2012, the owners of Abercrombie Ridge have been purchasing Permathene gabion mesh and building rock walls using the Permathene range of high-quality products.

Gabion cages solve numerous problems for rural property owners. Besides the fact they look great, they're perfect for housing large amounts of rock, which would otherwise remain scattered all over the property — typically ignored or carted away at great expense. With this in mind, the owners of Abercrombie Ridge decided to build gabion walls, starting with just a few cages. At this stage they used Permathene's old Galfan five-percent aluminium, 95-per-cent zinc-coated

gabions. Today they're using Permathene's new AL-TEN gabion cage mesh, which has an even hardier 10-per-cent aluminium, 90-per-cent zinc coating.

Red basalt rock is local to the area and was collected from the property and handplaced directly into the cages. Hand-placing the rock, although a time-consuming task, ensured there were few voids and allowed the owners to place the flat side of the rock against the mesh for a neat effect.

It has been four years so far and the owners have built three large gabion walls, with at least two more large walls yet to be built. It's a huge job, especially as they're building the walls only when they have the time, but by not rushing they are able to plan how the new walls will feature as part of the property's overall look. The gabion walls that are already in place have produced a stunning effect, especially

the gabion rock walls that mark the main entrance to the impressive property.

The gabion walls at Abercrombie Ridge were built using spiral connections, which are the fastest and strongest method of building gabions. The owners have been quite creative in the design, with walls of varying heights and lengths. That is one of the great things about gabion walls — you are only limited by your imagination and they easily allow for flexibility in design. This means you can use the walls for privacy, to mark boundaries or just break up larger areas into smaller, more personal spaces. For added interest, they can be filled with different types of products and because they are permanent and weather-resistant, gabion walls are a long-lasting solution.

To find out more about Permathene's premium-quality gabion products and to explore the endless possibilities for using gabions in your next landscaping project, check out their website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PERMATHENE PTY LTD

Unit 8, 20 Ricketty Street, Mascot NSW 2020 PHONE 1800 608 095 (free call) WEBSITE permathene.com.au











By using the right stone, you can turn a gabion wall or garden feature into a design focal point

ock-filled gabions are quickly becoming a must-have in residential gardens. They're being used to build retaining and garden walls, and they're being incorporated into myriad design elements, ranging from seating and water features to planters and fire pits. Often, they're teamed with garden beds mulched with pebbles or graveltopped paths, ensuring a coordinated look and giving the garden an appealing natural feel.

A company with an enviable reputation as a specialist supplier of feature rock and river pebbles, Mawsons has branched into the

gabion market, providing 60/100mm pebble and 150mm spall feature stone for use inside gabions. Mawsons can also supply the metal baskets (gabions) with a range of sizes available, including 300mm x 300mm x 1000mm and 500mm x 500mm x 1000mm.

Mawsons owns a variety of quarries from which they source their feature rock, gabion stone and pebbles. This enables the company to produce a wide range of products and ensures consistency of supply and quality.

The pebbles, which range in size from 7mm to 100mm-plus and come in a plethora



of colours, are a great addition to a droughttolerant garden and can be used in many decorative ways, such as the creation of a dry creek bed or as mulch on a garden bed or in a planter. Mawsons also supplies its own range of pathway toppings, which are another practical and attractive addition to a water-wise garden.

Mawsons operates eight landscape centres in northern Victoria and southern New South Wales, and it supplies its river pebbles to numerous retail outlets throughout Melbourne and regional Victoria. In addition, the company owns more than 30 concrete plants, producing specialised exposed aggregate and polished concrete mixes.

As a business of more than 100 years' standing and the owner of multiple hardrock quarries and premixed concrete plants, Mawsons has the expertise and resources to cater for all your hard landscaping needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

E.B. MAWSON & SONS PTY LTD **PHONE** 1800 423 456 EMAIL enquiries@mawsons.com.au WEBSITE mawsons.com.au

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first impressions

Make a grand entrance with Australian-made, premium-quality sandstone gate pillars

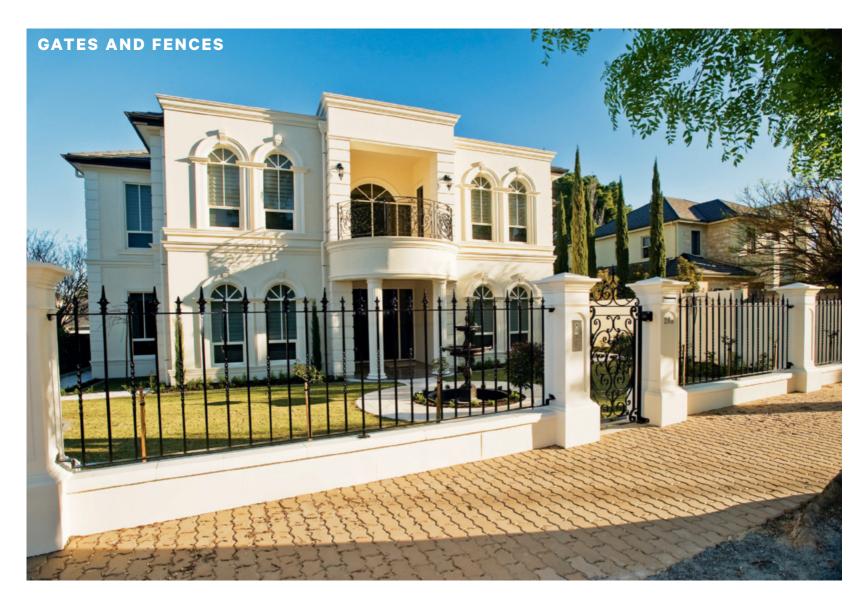


ow you fence your front garden is not just about keeping people out or pets and children in. Chosen well, a front fence and gate will frame and enhance your home. For those who want a stylish and secure option, CastStone's sandstone gate pillars are the perfect solution.

CastStone specialises in the manufacture and installation of sandstone gate pillars, sandstone columns and other architectural embellishments. The CastStone pillar range is extensive, offering you a choice of heights, widths and styles. Each individual style has a different base, shaft and capital design so you can tailor the look of the fence to your specific requirements. Pillars range from contemporary designs to more traditional styles, ensuring you will find something that will be a perfect match to your home.

The CastStone range of columns offers a similarly wide choice. For a classic look there are Doric, Corinthian and Ionic columns, but they have contemporary styles too. CastStone columns will enhance any outdoor area, such as verandahs and outdoor kitchens, or add flair to any outdoor





structure, such as arbours, rotundas and pergolas. Depending on the design of your home, you can choose columns that are either fluted or smooth in finish.

CastStone pillars and columns give structure to your garden; they can also be used as focal points, creating a landscape that "pops". Although CastStone's main products are gate pillars and columns, the company also manufactures an extensive range of plinth walls, mail boxes, capping, pyramids, balustrades, pedestals, memorial stones and architectural embellishments in a wide range of styles.



Products are tailored to suit your needs. As an example, a plinth wall can be manufactured so the stone inserts can be applied to match the front of your home, or you can choose from the varied range of finishes to ensure your mailbox fittings precisely match your fence or the exterior of your home. Or, perhaps, you might want to personalise your mailbox with an address plate.

CastStone has provided products and expertise for diverse projects, including housing estates, retirement villages, bowling greens, parks, residential gardens, pool houses, memorial arches and arbours. CastStone has also been involved in many restoration projects, helping to ensure an authentic result.

All products are Australian made at the company's South Australian factory and can be freighted anywhere in Australia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CASTSTONE

950 Port Road, Albert Park SA 5014 **PHONE** 1800 626 816 EMAIL info@caststone.com.au WEBSITE caststone.com.au PHOTOGRAPHY by Sarah Long



THE ASSOCIATIONS FOR LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

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www.landscapingaustralia.com.au



get the edge

With a long-lasting, flexible steel-edging product you can give shape and definition to any garden

hen it comes to garden edging, you need a product that is strong, versatile and weather resistant — and you can't get anything that fits the bill better than steel. Greenlines Gardenware's FormBoss range of lowmaintenance steel garden edging lets you be the boss of your own garden design.

Greenlines Gardenware offers a large array of easy-to-install domestic and commercial-grade steel edging solutions ranging from flush edges to 400mm-high retaining walls. You also have a choice of galvanised steel, ZAM (exclusive looking and ultra durable) or Corten steel (the latter boasting a weathered finish), and

various gauges to ensure the edging is of the appropriate strength for your project.

FormBoss edging systems allow you to create curves and angles with ease and thanks to the rounded top edge and hidden stakes and connectors, the finished result is elegant and clean. For a fully coordinated look, ask about FormBoss tree rings and pre-made raised planter beds which are ideal for vegetable or herb gardens.

Once installed, FormBoss edging stays where it is put. It is strong and durable, making it ideal for everything from family gardens to commercial projects, and it comes with a 10-year replacement warranty.

So impressive is the FormBoss range that it is often chosen by leading Australian designers participating in the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show. FormBoss edging has played a key role in numerous display gardens, including the 2013 winner of Best in Show. Since then, FormBoss edging has featured in various other display gardens, many of them also award winners.

Greenlines Gardenware offers a full range of services, including free quotes, pre-curving of edging products and Australia-wide delivery. You can buy direct from the Melbourne factory or from one of the ever-increasing number of re-sellers popping up all over Australia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

GREENLINES GARDENWARE PHONE 1800 367 626 EMAIL info@greenlines.com.au WEBSITE formboss.com.au





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essentials



← CREATE A SANCTUARY

Sanctum screens are made from premiumquality manufactured timber that uses 100 per cent Australian plantation hardwood. Suitable for interior and exterior use, the screens come in a broad range of designs, ensuring there is something to suit any location as well as any home or garden style. You might like to use a single screen on a wall or as a hero feature in a garden bed, or multiple screens to create privacy or protect a space from the full glare of the sun. Sanctum creens are available in five sizes. houseofbamboo.com.au

← TIME TO DAZZLE

Laticrete's SpectraLock Pro Grout Dazzle provides a high-end design element that complements all types of tile and stone. The metallic accents in the grout, which have a mother-of-pearl look and a glowin-the-dark effect, bring it to the forefront, helping to turn any floor, wall or ceiling into a design feature. Moreover, the grout provides perfect colour uniformity with no blotchiness or shading, and it won't discolour as long as you use neutral household cleaners. The grout is ideal for pools, bathrooms, fountains and permanent wet areas, such as the project by Outdoor Secrets shown here. laticrete.com.au

V ALL THAT GLITTERS

Nanosilex is a new-generation wall coating system that is affordable and stylish. Made from 100 per cent recycled glass that is coloured using a unique process, Nanosilex offers an amazing range of colour blends and sparkling effects. The dirt- and water-repellant glass coating glitters and shimmers in the sunlight, creating a unique look that will not fade or lose its appeal over time. In fact, Nanosilex offers a whole host of benefits. It is colour stable, has high UV resistance and is low VOC (<15g/L). foamfast.com.au





↑ VERTICAL ADVANTAGE

Create a stunning living wall with the Vertical Planting Kit from Holman. This vertical garden unit enables you to grow a herb or vegetable garden near your outdoor kitchen or barbecue and make a design statement at the same time. This simple-to-install modular system comes complete with in-built adjustable drippers that water each pot so you can have an edible wall of herbs all year round. The Vertical Planting Kit allows full design freedom with the option to extend your living wall vertically or horizontally. holmanindustries.com.au



↑ STARS OF THE SCREEN

If you're looking to give a garden wall or screened area an earthy vibe, Outdeco's Mountain Ash 90 per cent privacy 1800 range is ideal. The organic Mountain Ash pattern offers the perfect visual segue between architectural and natural environments. It makes a sophisticated statement whether installed horizontally or vertically and its narrow slots make it great as a feature on a solid wall or as a near-total privacy screen. Made in Australia from compressed hardwood board, Outdeco screens can be framed or finished in various ways. outdeco.com.au



个 ADD SOME WARMTH

Create a beautiful outdoor or indoor living area by using Glosswood prefinished lining boards. These easy-to-install boards use sustainable timber that comes prefinished (no sanding or painting required) and because a natural lightweight hardwood timber is used, the timber grain can be seen in the lining boards. For the ceiling of the skillion roof pictured here, the homeowners used Jarrah Satin UV boards to add warmth to the outdoor living space. Visit the Glosswood website to see the full colour range in matte and satin finishes. glosswood.com.au



个 FORGET THE HARD WORK

Now you can spend less time on your deck performing routine maintenance tasks and more time enjoying your home with family and friends. HardieDeck is a virtually maintenance-free alternative to timber decking. It looks great in its natural state, coated with a clear sealer, but it can also be stained to look just like timber or coated almost any colour you choose. HardieDeck is durable, so it won't split, warp or rot like timber can. Breathe new life into an old deck or use HardieDeck to create a new sundeck or entertainment area, hardiedeck.com.au



个 THE CLASSIC CHOICE

The detailing on CastStone's sandstone renderedlook pre-cast pillars and columns is sharp and well defined, and you have many styles to select from. As CastStone's pillars and columns are all manufactured in segments, you have even greater choice in determining what the final product will look like, giving you the perfect match for your home or landscape design. The CastStone range is extensive and includes fence pillars, gate pillars, letterboxes, columns, wall capping, coping stones and plinths. Contact CastStone when you're ready to enhance the look of your home. caststone.com.au



↑ THRILL OF THE GRILL

Of sleek Danish design, the Morsø Grill Forno is made from solid enamelled cast iron and sits on a base comprised of three teak legs that are held together with a stainless-steel ring. The ring has three hangers, providing a place to keep tools. A coal/wood insert and a grill grate, both made from cast iron, come with the grill. The surface of the grill grate is designed to ensure meat is cooked in its own juices. When cooking is over, use it as a fireplace. aussieheatwave.com



个 FOR THE FAMILY

Gardens continue to shrink, frustrating the many families who yearn for an in-ground trampoline. However, there is a solution round in-ground trampolines that easily blend into small gardens. What's more, they have a built-in retaining wall and installation takes less than a day. Available in four sizes from Oz Trampolines, and with the option of an enclosure and basketball kit, there is something to suit any garden or budget. And for your convenience, Oz Trampolines offers free delivery. oztrampolines.com.au



个 MADE IN THE SHADE

The Shaderunner cord-operated retractable shade system fits any situation. The owners of Shadeform Sails, makers of the Shaderunner, come from a sailing and sail-making background and used this knowledge to perfect the system. The stylish Shaderunner is suspended from sailing pulleys on stainless-steel wires that can be mounted on or under existing pergola-type structures, or from support posts put in to house the system. Large extensions are possible, making the system an even more versatile option. So you get the look you want and the degree of coverage you need, you have a choice of 95 per cent polyester mesh or a waterproof fabric. shadeformsails.com.au



↑ MOWING MADE EASY

The WORX Landroid is changing the way we approach one of the least enjoyable tasks faced by homeowners: mowing the lawn. The Landroid is a battery-operated, robotic grasscutting machine capable of cutting areas up to 1000m² on a single charge. It's as simple as marking out the Landroid's territory with the supplied boundary wire, placing the charging station in an appropriate place, setting your cutting height, and putting your feet up while you watch your little robotic helper go to work. How easy is that? worx.com



个 THE RIGHT TOUCH

After more than 90 years of toil in gardens across Australia and New Zealand, Pope has taken the trusty garden hose to a new level with the GroPro Storm. This is a hose that must be touched to be believed. Its supple, kinkresistant textured finish is super soft, yet tough as a wombat. The fully machined, factorycrimped brass fittings offer secure connections to Pope's extensive suite of hose-end products. Top it all off with a lifetime guarantee and you have peace of mind. GroPro Storm is available at Bunnings. popeproducts.com.au



↑ ELITE ENTERTAINER

Heatlie's Island Gourmet Elite (available in two sizes: 850mm and 600mm) is designed for outdoor kitchens and can be installed directly into any type of benchtop, even combustible materials like timber. This hard-wearing, Australianmade barbecue not only looks good, it's one of the toughest on the market and a breeze to clean. It features a solidsteel hotplate and steel ribbon burners, preventing charring, eliminating hot and cold spots, and ensuring food is cooked evenly. Heatlie barbecues are available in LPG or natural gas. A roasting hood and cabinet are also available to use with the Island Gourmet Elite. heatlie.com.au

$oldsymbol{\psi}$ an elegant addition

Using cutting-edge technology, Thermofilm, a world leader in electric heaters, has released a new outdoor heater boasting a unique off-white colour blend that allows it to seamlessly integrate with most white patio, verandah or outdoor room ceilings. The white HEATSTRIP Elegance is available in three different options — 1800W, 2400W and 3600W — and its shorter, more compact design transforms any area into a stylish and sophisticated space. Moreover, it does this by using less surface area than competitors' products while heating the area more effectively. heatstrip.com.au



The Weber Family Q Built In barbecue is the latest evolution of the popular Weber Q range. It has the same amazing cooking system as other Weber barbecues, but turned into an outdoor kitchen masterpiece. The Weber Family Q Built In barbecue is designed to fit into a standard 600mm (or larger) outdoor kitchen bench, which makes tailoring a design for installation simple, and it's constructed of 304-grade stainless steel and cast aluminium. You can install it yourself or use Weber's delivery, assembly and installation service. weberbbq.com.au



↑ CUTTING-EDGE CONCEPTS

Urban Design Systems' laser-cut concepts add texture, colour and design flair to any project. Along with decorative screens and garden elements, they offer a unique range of Australian fauna sculptures that can be used to create striking focal points or encourage curiosity by punctuating a garden design with discreetly placed sculptural works. Sculptures, ranging from geckos and tree frogs to dragonflies and whale tails, are formed from Corten steel, adding a chic, rustic touch to a modern landscaping palette. Other finishes include weathered copper and aged bronze. urbandesignsystems.com.au

← A LIFESTYLE DECISION

With an Australian-made, high-quality Lifestyle barbecue or outdoor kitchen, you get all the heat control and cooking performance you need. This means you can cook a pancake on low heat on the stainless-steel hotplate for a leisurely breakfast and then crank it up to high at night to cook marinated prawns in a minute or two. Lifestyle's modular outdoor kitchen range is especially popular. Made from commercial-grade stainless steel, a Lifestyle outdoor kitchen is durable, functional and great value. lifestylebbqs.com.au



[| argrilled

NEW HOMES RENOVATIONS KITCHENS BATHROOMS INTERIORS OUTDOORS POOLS & SPAS COMPETITIONS Projects / Articles / Outdoor Rooms / Lighting & Heating / Decking & surfaces / Gardening / Products /



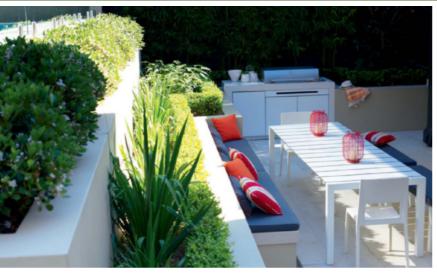
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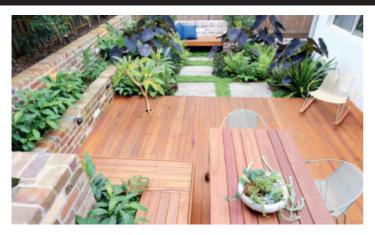
Landscape NSW & ACT is a not for profit Industry Association. Our members design, build & maintain quality landscapes using only the best suppliers. For peace of mind when creating your lifestyle landscape choose a LNA member.

landscape awards





LNA Master Landscapers Association Landscape Excellence Awards 2016



RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION UP TO \$75,000

Winner: Custom Creations Landscapes

Project: Rozelle residence



RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION \$75,000-\$150,000

Winner: Outdoor Establishments Project: Mosman residence



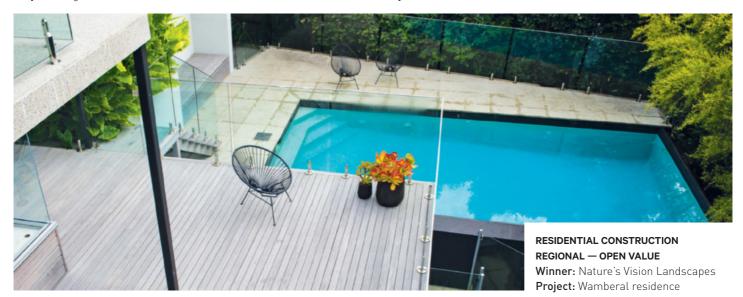
RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION \$150,000-\$300,000

Winner: Dekker Landscapes Pty Ltd Project: Balgowlah residence



RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION OVER \$300,000

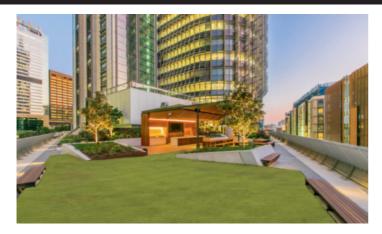
Winner: Outdoor Establishments Project: Mosman residence





LNA Master Landscapers Association would like to thank the following partners of the Landscape Excellence Awards 2016:

Husqvarna, Andreasens Green Wholesale Nurseries, HardieDeck, Dial A Product, Gardens at Night, Gilbert & Roach Isuzu, Alpine Nurseries, Nationwide Insurance Brokers, Exotic Nurseries & Landscaping, LiberRate, The Hills Bark Blower, Ecoplant, Etienne Lawyers, Timberwolf Planting and Gosford Quarries.



COMMERCIAL/CIVIL CONSTRUCTION UP TO \$3 MILLION

Winner: Regal Innovations Pty Ltd

Project: Barangaroo Stage 1, Commercial Tower C4



COMMERCIAL/CIVIL CONSTRUCTION OVER \$3 MILLION

Winner: Regal Innovations Pty Ltd

Project: University of Technology, Alumni Green



OPEN SPACE PARKLANDS, PLAYGROUNDS & LEISURE FACILITIES UP TO \$3 MILLION Winner: Co-ordinated Landscapes Pty Ltd Project: Wylde Mountain Bike Track, Cecil Park



OPEN SPACE PARKLANDS, PLAYGROUNDS & LEISURE FACILITIES **OVER \$3 MILLION Winner:** Regal Innovations Pty Ltd Project: Barangaroo Reserve Park, Public Domain Main Works





LANDSCAPE AWARDS NSW & ACT



MAINTENANCE — RESIDENTIAL SINGLE HOUSE

Winner: Nature's Vision Landscapes Project: Wamberal residence



MAINTENANCE — COMMERCIAL — PARKLANDS & OPEN SPACES

Winner: Skyline Landscape Services Pty Ltd

Project: Barangaroo Reserve



MAINTENANCE — RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

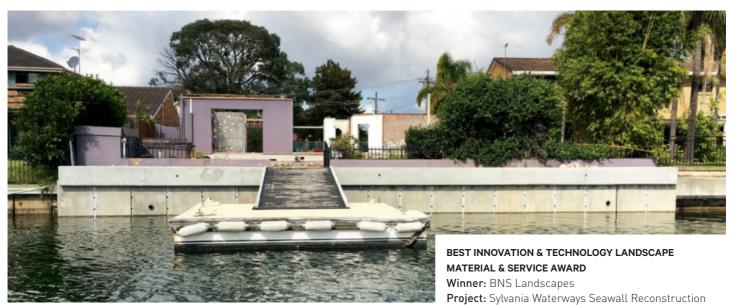
Winner: Skyline Landscape Services Pty Ltd Project: Top Ryde City Living, Ryde



MAINTENANCE — COMMERCIAL — RESORTS & RETIREMENT

Winner: Green Options

Project: Cranbrook School, Bellevue Hill





CELEBRATING WOMEN IN LANDSCAPING

Winner: Clarissa White Company: Landscape Solutions

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR - PARKS & GARDENS

Winner: Jessica Taylor Company: 1300 Apprentice

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR - LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

Winner: Aidan Martins Company: The Gardenmakers

LANDSCAPER PROJECT/CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN/MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Winner: Jean-Michel Noja Company: Able Landscaping



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD

Winner: Scape Constructions

Project: Terrigal CBD & Hylton Moore Stormwater Harvesting Scheme



GRAHAM ROSS RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE OF THE YEAR

Winner: Skyline Landscape Services Project: Top Ryde City Living, Ryde



GRAHAM ROSS COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YEAR

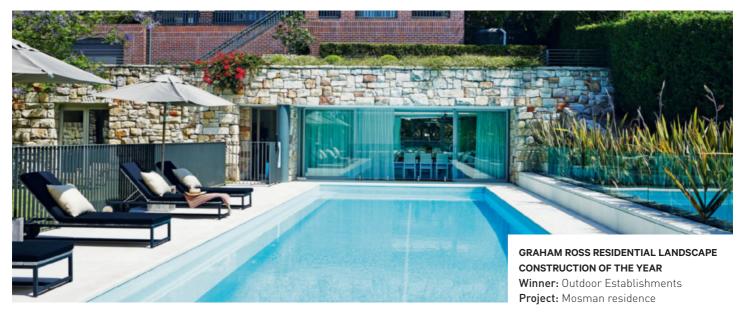
Winner: Regal Innovations Pty Ltd

Project: Barangaroo Reserve Park, Public Domain Main Works



GRAHAM ROSS COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE OF THE YEAR

Winner: Skyline Landscape Services Project: Barangaroo Reserve





Landscape Industries Association of Western **Australia's Awards of Excellence 2016**



RESIDENTIAL UP TO 250SQM

Winner: Newforms Landscape Architecture & Phase3 Landscape Construction Project: North Fremantle residence



RESIDENTIAL 250-500SQM

Winner: Tim Davies Landscaping Project: Floreat residence



RESIDENTIAL OVER 500SQM

Winner: Newforms Landscape Architecture & Phase3 Landscape Construction Project: East Fremantle residence



COMMERCIAL UP TO 500SQM

Winner: Josh Byrne & Associates

Project: Leap Start Early Learning Child Care, Play Space, Jandakot





Landscape Industries Association of Western Australia would like to thank the following award sponsors: Amazon Soils, Arbor Centre, Benara Nurseries, Eco Outdoor, Domus Nursery, Miniquip, Plantrite, Future Turf (Village Green), WCT Distributors (Trex Decking), Timberwolf Planting and Water Corporation.



CONTRACTOR — RESIDENTIAL UNDER \$75,000

Winner: Tim Davies Landscaping Project: Cottesloe residence



CONTRACTOR — RESIDENTIAL \$75,000-\$150,000

Winner: Phase3 Landscape Construction **Project:** North Fremantle residence



CONTRACTOR — RESIDENTIAL OVER \$150,000

Winner: Tim Davies Landscaping Project: West Leederville residence



CONTRACTOR — COMMERCIAL/CIVIC UNDER \$500,000

Winner: Tim Davies Landscaping

Project: Cottesloe Works Depot Development





LANDSCAPE AWARDS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

OVERALL WINNERS Designer Residential:

Phase3 Landscape Construction & Newforms Landscape Architecture **Contractor Residential:** Tim Davies Landscaping

Designer Commercial:Josh Byrne & Associates

Contractor Commercial: LD TOTAL

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PROJECT — RESIDENTIAL

Winner: Volunteer Task Force
Project: Burke Place Waterwise
Remodel, Orelia

SUPPLIER/TRADE SERVICES
OF THE YEAR
Winner:
Arbor Centre



CONTRACTOR — COMMERCIAL/CIVIC OVER \$1 MILLION

Winner: LD TOTAL

Project: Adventurescape, Austin Lakes, South Yunderup



COMMERCIAL PROJECTS LOCATED MORE THAN 150KM FROM PERTH

Winner: LD TOTAL

Project: Koombana North Forward Works Landscaping, Bunbury



BEST SPECIAL FEATURE — BUILT FEATURE

Winner: LD TOTAL

Project: Adventurescape, Austin Lakes, South Yunderup



Project: Raffles Hotel Development, Applecross

BEST SPECIAL FEATURE — LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

Winner: Phase3 Landscape Construction & Arterial Design **Project:** City Of Melville War Memorial, Wireless Hill





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- advise on waterwise and sustainable gardens
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- project manage your landscaping works to a high standard
- deliver a high level of customer service and support





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Landscaping Victoria **Industry Awards 2016**



LANDSCAPE OF THE YEAR Winner: Formation Landscapes **Project:** Surrey Hills residence



LANDSCAPE DESIGN UNDER 60SQM Winner: Formation Landscapes **Project:** Surrey Hills residence



LANDSCAPE DESIGN 60-200SQM Winner: COS Design



LANDSCAPE DESIGN OVER 200SQM Winner: Formation Landscapes Project: Surrey Hills residence



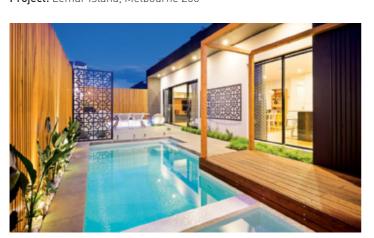


The Landscaping Victoria Industry Awards 2016 reflected excellence in maintenance, design and construction works across residential and commercial applications completed by Landscaping Victoria members.



COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION UNDER \$500,000

Winner: Warrandale Industries Pty Ltd Project: Lemur Island, Melbourne Zoo



RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION UNDER \$50,000

Winner: Bayon Gardens Project: Camberwell residence



COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION OVER \$500,000

Winner: PTA Landscapes

Project: Monash University, Clayton



RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION \$50,000-\$150,000

Winner: Esjay Landscapes Project: Canterbury residence





LANDSCAPE AWARDS VICTORIA

RISING STAR

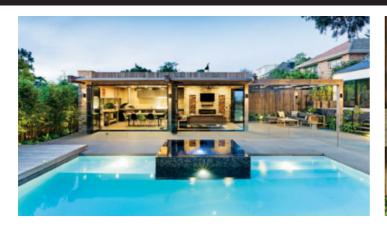
Winner: Landscape Plus

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Joint Winner: Erik Holt Company: Ian Barker Gardens APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Joint Winner: Thomas Conboy Company: Formation Landscapes SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

Winner: Warners Nurseries



RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION OVER \$300,000

Winner: Formation Landscapes Project: Surrey Hills residence



HARD STRUCTURES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Winner: Warrandale Industries Pty Ltd **Project:** Grampians Hikers Camp



GRANT SALTMARSH FEATURE IN THE LANDSCAPE

Winner: Formation Landscapes **Project:** Surrey Hills residence



LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

Winner: Semken Landscaping Project: Plenty residence



Winner: Timandra Design & Landscaping

Project: Warrnambool residence

PROTECT your INVESTMENT...





Is your landscaper registered?

If your landscape is going to cost more than \$5,000 and includes construction works, only a landscaper who is a Registered Building Practitioner is legally covered to do the work and can offer you Domestic Building Insurance for works over \$16,000.

By engaging a landscaper with this Registration you are guaranteed that they are experienced, carry all the necessary insurances, and operate professional businesses. They have to be in order to satisfy the strict criteria set down by the government regulatory body, the Victorian Building Authority.

This buys peace of mind that you and your investment are in the right hands because professional landscaping does make life better.

Registered Landscapers are:

- recommended by Landscaping Victoria
- registered with the Victorian Building Authority
- professional with regard to quality outcomes
- insured
- leaders in the landscape industry.

So before you embark on your next landscape project ask your landscaper – are you registered?





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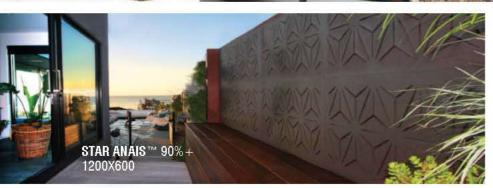












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