



DREAM COME TRUE

A modern outdoor retreat designed for a family that appreciates the very best

When the owners of this property in Sydney's rural outer west began planning their new home, they knew they wanted a multi-functional outdoor living space to complement it. To help them achieve that, they called in Justin Dibble, managing director and principal designer of Fluid Design.

"The brief was to create an outdoor retreat with a modern country-style feel. It needed to provide several areas for entertaining and

feature a relatively low-maintenance garden to bring it all together. Essential elements included an outdoor kitchen area, a traditional woodfired pizza oven, ample space around the swimming pool for lounges etc, a firepit and a chill-out lounge space," explains Justin.

There are three buildings on the site — the house, a gym and a pool house — yet the garden feels open and cohesive. This is a testament to Justin's skill, as is the clever integration of multiple areas for entertaining

and hanging out with friends. As to the look, it is modern yet pays homage to its rural setting.

"I particularly love the woodfired pizza oven/outdoor bar area, which also has a few old wine barrel tables that give the space a real rustic country vibe. It's a place where anyone would love to spend time with friends eating delicious pizza and sharing a few beverages. The sunken firepit area is a great space too, with the pool's spillover wall, tiled with blue glass mosaics, acting as a stunning backdrop."

Then, of course, there is the pool house designed by architect Luke Van Jour of Distinct Innovations, which overlooks the pool and has a huge alfresco area. It is here you will find the outdoor kitchen, built-in gas fireplace, dining table and lounge suite.

"A key element of the project was building a 1m-high retaining wall along the back of the garden to create a level area to the rear of the home. This spot has a lush green lawn, the centrepiece of which is a 1.5m-high modern Corten steel Sphere sculpture with an ethanol burner at its base," says Justin.

The property experiences cold, frosty winter mornings and baking-hot dry summer afternoons, so only tough, low-maintenance plants were employed. Explains Justin, "We

selected *Viburnum odoratissimum* to create a hedge that would give a walled garden effect, with *Pyrus 'Capital'* to create height within the garden and provide some autumn colour."

Equal care was taken in the selection of the hardscaping materials, from the tumbled travertine paving to the spotted gum hardwood decking. The result is a well-considered, versatile outdoor retreat where attention has been paid to every detail.

more info?

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