



## THIS IS LIVING

*Offering the ideal outdoor lifestyle, this engaging landscape is perfect for revelling and relaxation*

PHOTOGRAPHY Blue Poppy Photography

The inviting outdoor spaces that wrap around this renovated home in a north-western Sydney suburb provide the perfect setting for entertaining — or for simply relaxing at the end of a hard week. The creative force behind this alfresco oasis is Justin Dibble, managing

director and principal designer of Fluid Design, who worked in close collaboration with the homeowner.

“The owner of the property is an inventive builder who had just completed a beautiful renovation of the home and wanted the outdoor entertaining area and garden to reflect this, with the pool being the showpiece,” explains

Justin. “He had really great ideas about how he wanted things to look and our role was to understand his vision and bring those ideas together in a functional way so his construction team could put it all together.”

The one-acre property has a fall of about 7m from the rear fence down to street level, so the first part of the brief was to create three usable

levels: a front entry garden, a rear entertaining area and an upper rear garden, where there was to be a four-car garage and granny flat.

“The owner knows just how much value a well-designed outdoor entertaining area and pool can add to a home, so his main focus was to create a spacious outdoor living area in which the house, entertaining space and pool felt like one big entertaining zone. It was also vital that the space be able to accommodate parties of all sizes,” says Justin.

“The way the outdoor spaces connect and encourage social interaction really makes it feel fun, and it’s one of those projects that just puts a smile on your face. There is an alfresco area for dining and a lounge space with a television. Then there is the poolside lounge, offering a daybed and a choice of two sundecks, or you can venture over to the firepit and relax on a hardwood stool while chatting with friends.”

A fully equipped outdoor kitchen with a sink, double-door fridge, built-in barbecue and cabinetry makes alfresco cooking a pleasure. The stone benchtop has a cantilevered section where you can pull up some bar stools, so friends can sit and chat while some serious barbecuing is going on. To keep guests in the party mood, there is a sound system with ceiling-mounted speakers.

“The design of this area is simple, modern and functional with a cool party vibe. It’s a really welcoming space that makes you want to invite friends over for a barbecue, crank up the music and spend the day in the pool,” says Justin.

The rich mix of materials is integral to the natural look and feel of the design. This encompasses the sandstone (ballast and block) retaining walls and steps, limestone paving, spotted gum decking and merbau cladding. The warm natural tones beautifully complement the pool’s teal-coloured glass-mosaic waterline tiles and glass bead interior.

The well-considered planting scheme adds the vital finishing touch. Explains Justin, “Lilly pilly hedges were used around the boundary fence line to create a green backdrop, with the same lilly pilly used as feature topiary along the garden terrace behind the firepit area. The heroes of the garden are the two Canary Island date palms. They act as natural umbrellas to the pool area and are feature-lit at night.”

From the enticing pool to the spacious outdoor room and charming firepit, this is a place for revelling and relaxation. **BH**

### more info?

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