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# HOME

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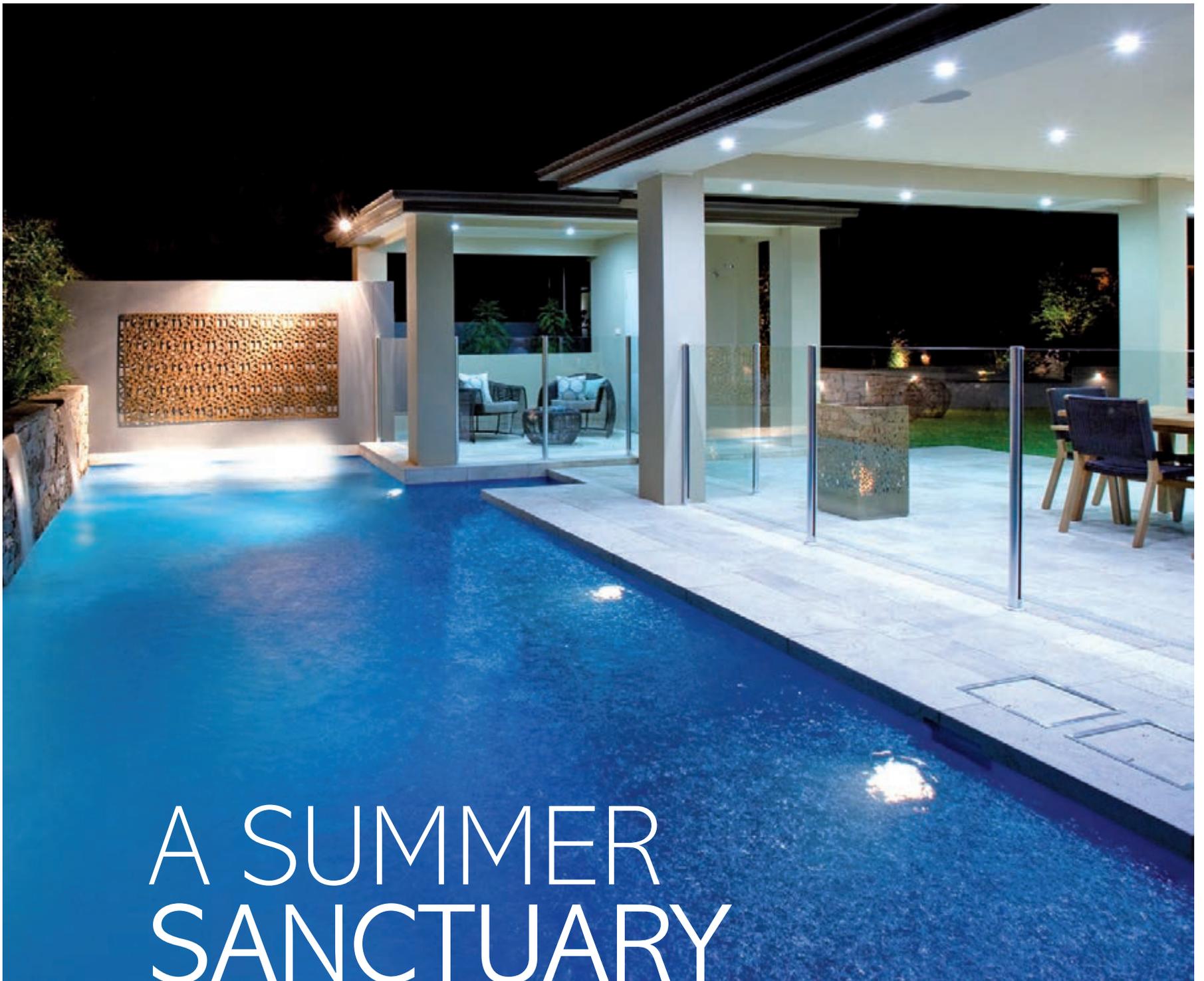
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# A SUMMER SANCTUARY

With a reputation for designing award-winning landscapes and swimming pools, Justin Dibble, the director and principal designer at Fluid Design, brings his creative talents to the fore with this family home in Sydney's north-west. Here, he created a beautiful outdoor entertaining area with lots of space and a breathtaking swimming pool for a young family who wanted a backyard they could cherish for many years to come.

BY DANIELLE HANRAHAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY BLUE POPPY PHOTOGRAPHY



“THE SWIMMING POOL IS ALWAYS MY FAVOURITE PART OF ANY PROJECT. I LOVE COOL POOLS AND STRIVE TO MAKE EACH ONE INTERESTING, UNIQUE AND MOST IMPORTANTLY FUN.”  
– JUSTIN DIBBLE

**What were you hoping to create with this space?**

While developing the design, we focused on maximising views both inside and outside the house, optimising space throughout the garden and ensuring functionality between each of these areas.

**What were the owners' specifications?**

The owners requested the swimming pool be an integral part of the proposed alfresco area of their new home. They wanted to see the pool from inside the house not only as an exciting visual feature but to keep watch over their young children. The vision for the garden was to incorporate a lot of native

Australian flora to attract local fauna and reflect their days spent camping in the serenity of the bush. They also wanted to maximise the lawn area within the backyard so their children could have ample space to play. Although the home and outdoor entertaining areas are modern, the plants and natural materials chosen were selected to soften the overall feel.

**What was your favourite part of this project?**

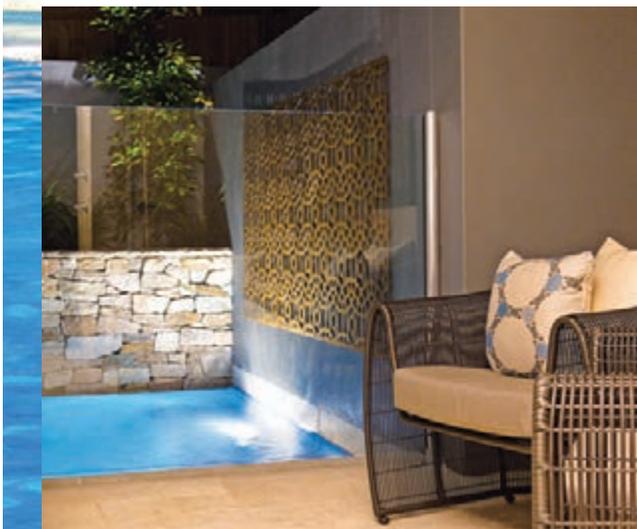
The swimming pool is always my favourite part of any project. I love cool pools and strive to make each one interesting, unique and most importantly fun. The pool in this project is such an integral part of the overall

design because it's in constant view from the house and main entertaining areas. The pool really needed to look amazing during the day and night, and be practical too.

**What materials were used?**

We chose large-format travertine tiles to surround the house as a way to replicate the modern interior, with alpine stone walling from Eco Outdoor to act as a feature of the yard. The idea is to show hints of stone at the entrance to a property and then again as you enter the backyard. The letterbox and five-metre-tall piers in the front entry were clad with stone, along with the raised pool wall in the back which gives the area a natural element. As for the swimming pool,





### ABOUT FLUID DESIGN

Specialising in luxury landscape and swimming pool design, Justin and his team believe that a well-designed garden should improve the way of life for your family while adding value to your property. With a focus on creating a seamless integration of the indoor and outdoor living areas, the team have created award-winning designs for properties ranging from compact courtyards to family backyards. [www.fluidlandscapedesign.com.au](http://www.fluidlandscapedesign.com.au)



the owners chose a glass bead render for the interior to give it an inviting turquoise finish. We installed three matching waterfalls, custom made from stainless steel, that run alongside the pool and add movement to the body of water. The intricate laser-cut steel screen from Lump Studio was used as a feature wall-hanging and finishes the outdoor pool area.

#### How do you decide what style suits each client?

Most people can be a bit unsure of what style they might prefer. However, through spending time with the clients at consultation stage this becomes more apparent. For us, the main notes we take

down include the personality of the client, the style of the home, be it existing or new, and the surrounding environment. For example, sometimes the client hopes to replicate a favourite holiday destination so this may need to be tweaked to suit the home and environment, taking factors such as climate into consideration.

#### Your best tip for transforming the outdoor pool area for summer?

In each project we try to include the four elements, which offer some great natural materials to choose from. Beautiful natural stone products are great for improving the look of pool surrounds, and Australian hardwoods can look amazing as poolside

decks for sun lounges or a boardwalk linking spaces. Timber brings a warmer, more relaxed feel to a space, which is why we like to use it for areas dedicated to entertaining, and fire can be a great practical accessory for winter months. Ethanol fires are a trendy alternative to wood fires, and can be moved around the garden to provide warmth or showcase brilliant reflections off the surface of the swimming pool. Completely tiling your pool will always have the best colour and look while providing easier maintenance, but keep in mind glass bead renders also give a stunning finish. Lastly, if you have the budget, use semi-frameless or frameless glass for pool fencing as it's great for creating a lovely view.