



MODERNHOME

# HOME

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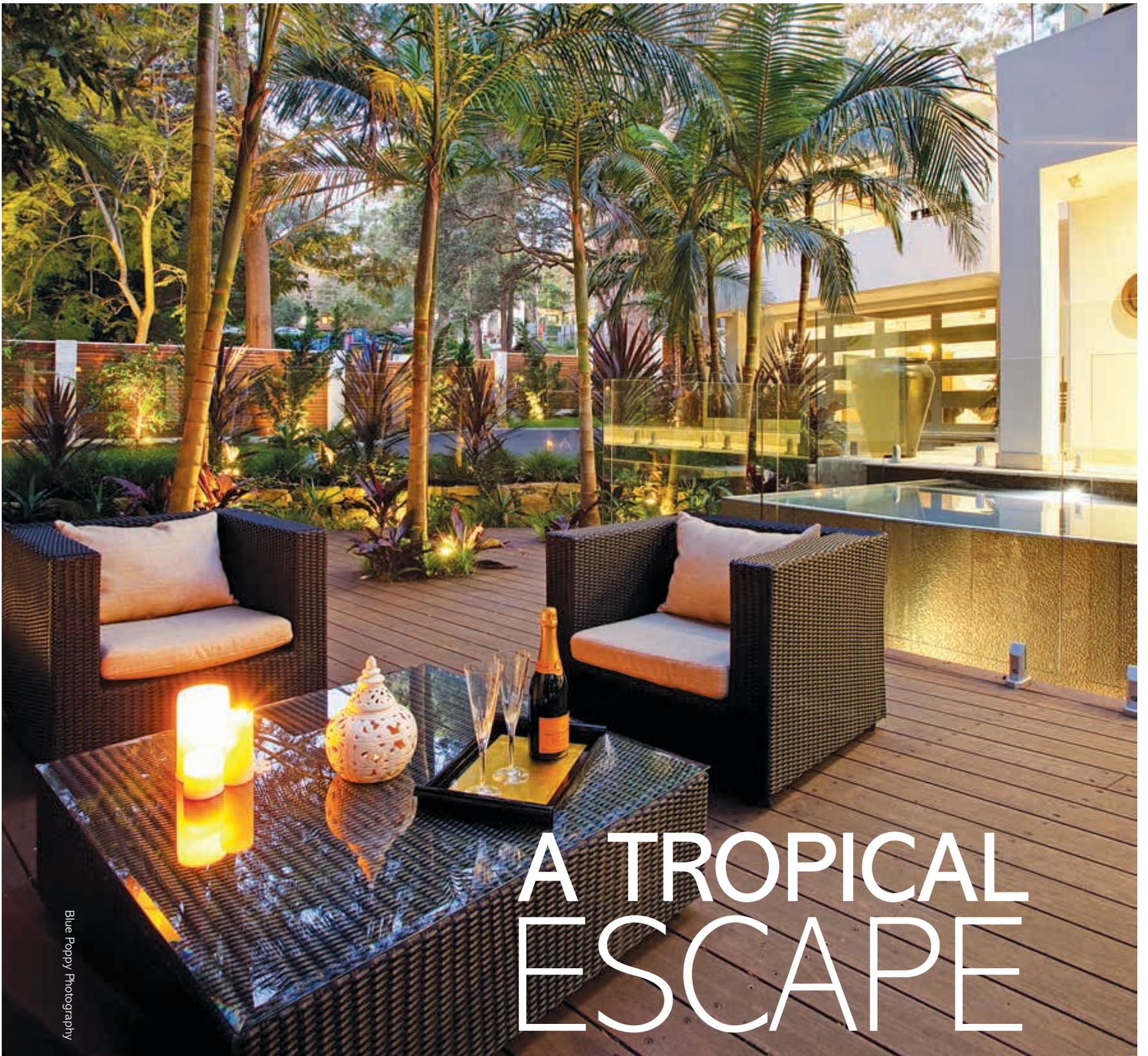
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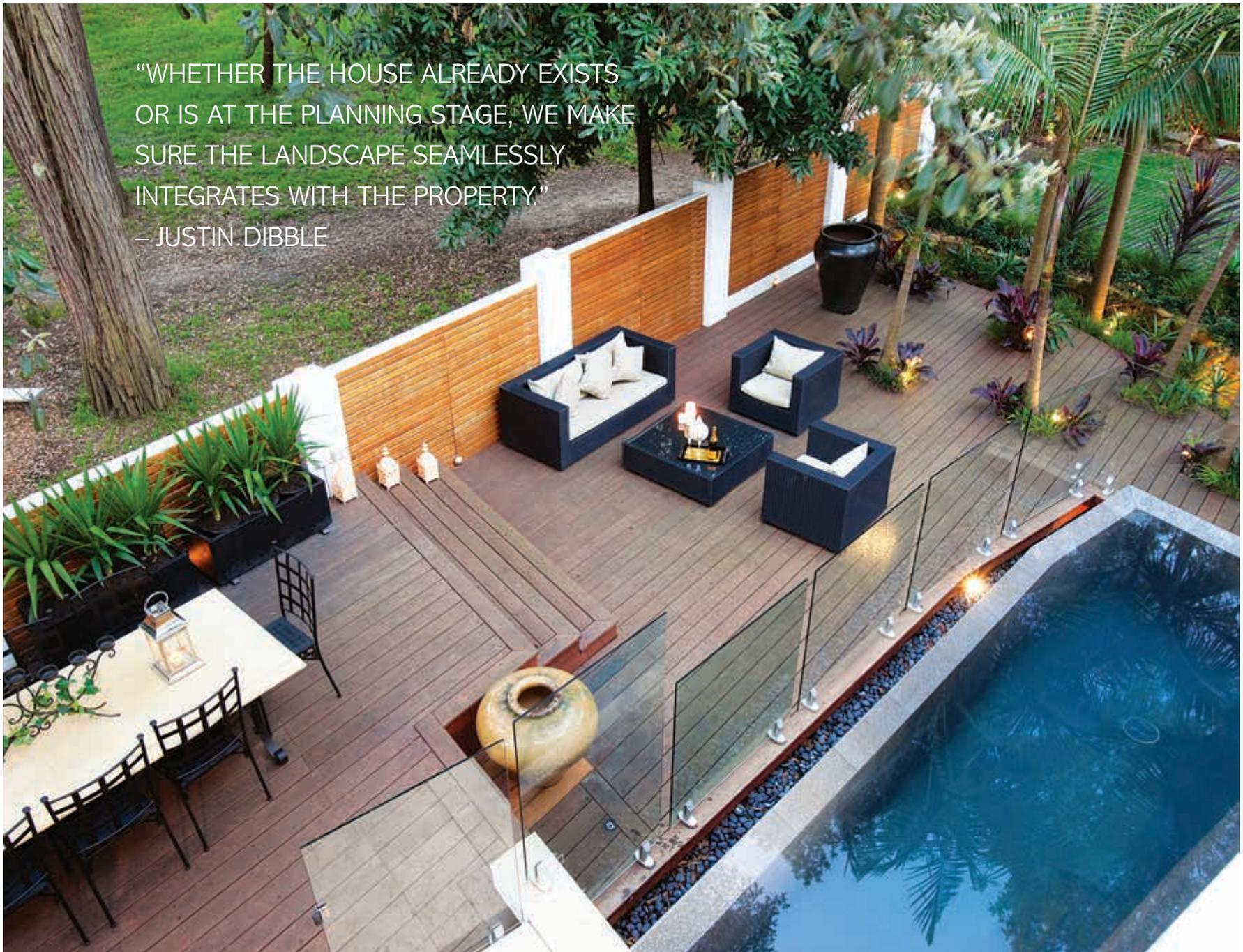


Blue Poppy Photography

# A TROPICAL ESCAPE

With a reputation for designing award-winning landscapes and swimming pools, Justin Dibble, the director and principal designer at Fluid Design, brings his expertise to a house in the beautiful Sydney suburb of Greenwich. Here, he shows us what can be done with a small backyard, a skilled imagination and years of experience.

BY DANIELLE HANRAHAN



“WHETHER THE HOUSE ALREADY EXISTS OR IS AT THE PLANNING STAGE, WE MAKE SURE THE LANDSCAPE SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATES WITH THE PROPERTY.”  
 – JUSTIN DIBBLE

**What were you hoping to create with this particular project?**

We wanted to create a contemporary design that’s relaxed and aesthetically appealing, something which complements the house and is a great outdoor entertaining area for year-round enjoyment.

**What were the owner’s specifications?**

The original owner envisioned a stunning, energy-efficient backyard that showcased what can be achieved on a small sloping block. The new owners are a professional couple who fell in love with the property because the entertaining area, with the

beautiful pool and relaxing environment, was exactly what they were looking for.

**What materials were used for this project?**

We used travertine paving and hardwood timber for the deck. The pool interior is Gemtex, with slightly ribbed charcoal large-format ceramic tiles on the edge. We also used frameless glass to fence the pool so it can be seen from any corner of the outdoor area. Tropical-style plants complete the look with bangalow palms, ‘Rubra’ and ‘Red Sensation’ cordylines, acorus, mondo grass, native ginger, philodendron and cascade lilly pilly as screen planting.

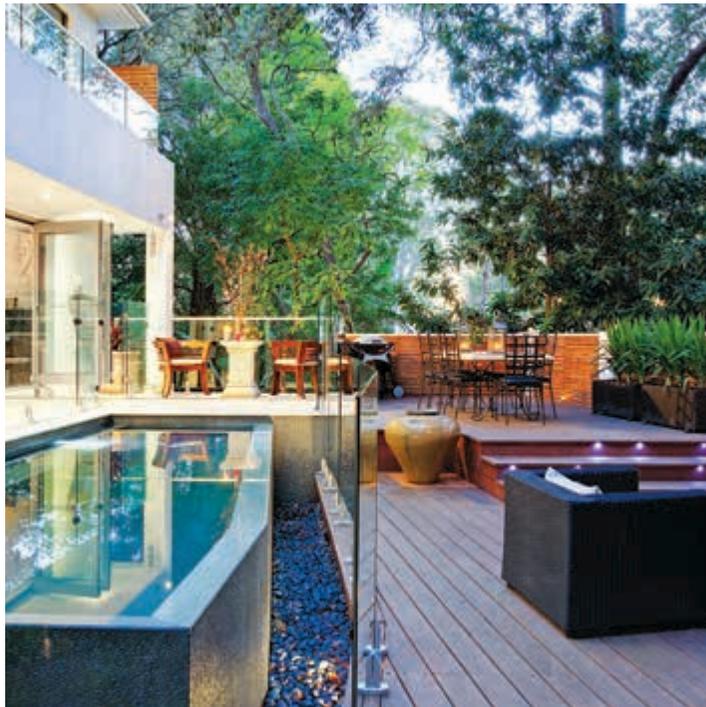
**What was your favourite part of the project?**

It would definitely be dealing with an amazing client who allowed me to create something truly special; a relaxing environment which truly shines.

**What did you find to be the greatest challenge?**

As there was limited space available for this backyard, the pool and its location had to be carefully considered. The finished level to the rear of the property was out of ground about two metres so the spaces had to be lifted to make the area useable. By positioning the pool directly off the existing





alfresco area, it means the pool can be conveniently accessed from the house and also opens up an area large enough for comfortable outdoor entertaining.

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

Firstly, we listen to our clients' needs. At the initial consultation we go through a concise checklist which allows us to gather all the

necessary information and create a design that's suited to their lifestyle. Secondly, we take inspiration from the style of the house. Whether the house already exists or is at the planning stage, we make sure the landscape seamlessly integrates with the property.

#### Your top tips for updating the outdoor living area for summer?

As you would spring clean the inside of your

house, you should aim to do the same for the outside. Get your entertaining area up to scratch with some of these simple maintenance tips:

- Clean the barbecue
- Remove algae build-up from pathways
- Trim and fertilise the lawn and garden
- Refresh the outdoor living area with new pieces, a good lick of paint or some new pot plants.