

ABOVE Owners Peter and Julie

WORDS: Kate McKee

A welcome retreat

THIS TROPICALLY INSPIRED OUTDOOR SPACE IS AN ENTERTAINER'S DREAM COME TRUE ...

The owners of this stunning architecturally designed house in Greenwich coveted a pool and outdoor living area that would complement the style of their new home as well as indulge their passion for entertaining outdoors. To make their dream space a reality, home owners Peter and Julie called on the skilled design services of Justin Dibble, director and principal designer of Fluid Design (www.fluidlandscapedesign.com.au) to fit all of the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle together.

The initial small, sloping block that was the backyard had its fair share of challenges, but in doing so it also provided Justin with an opportunity to create something interesting and unique.

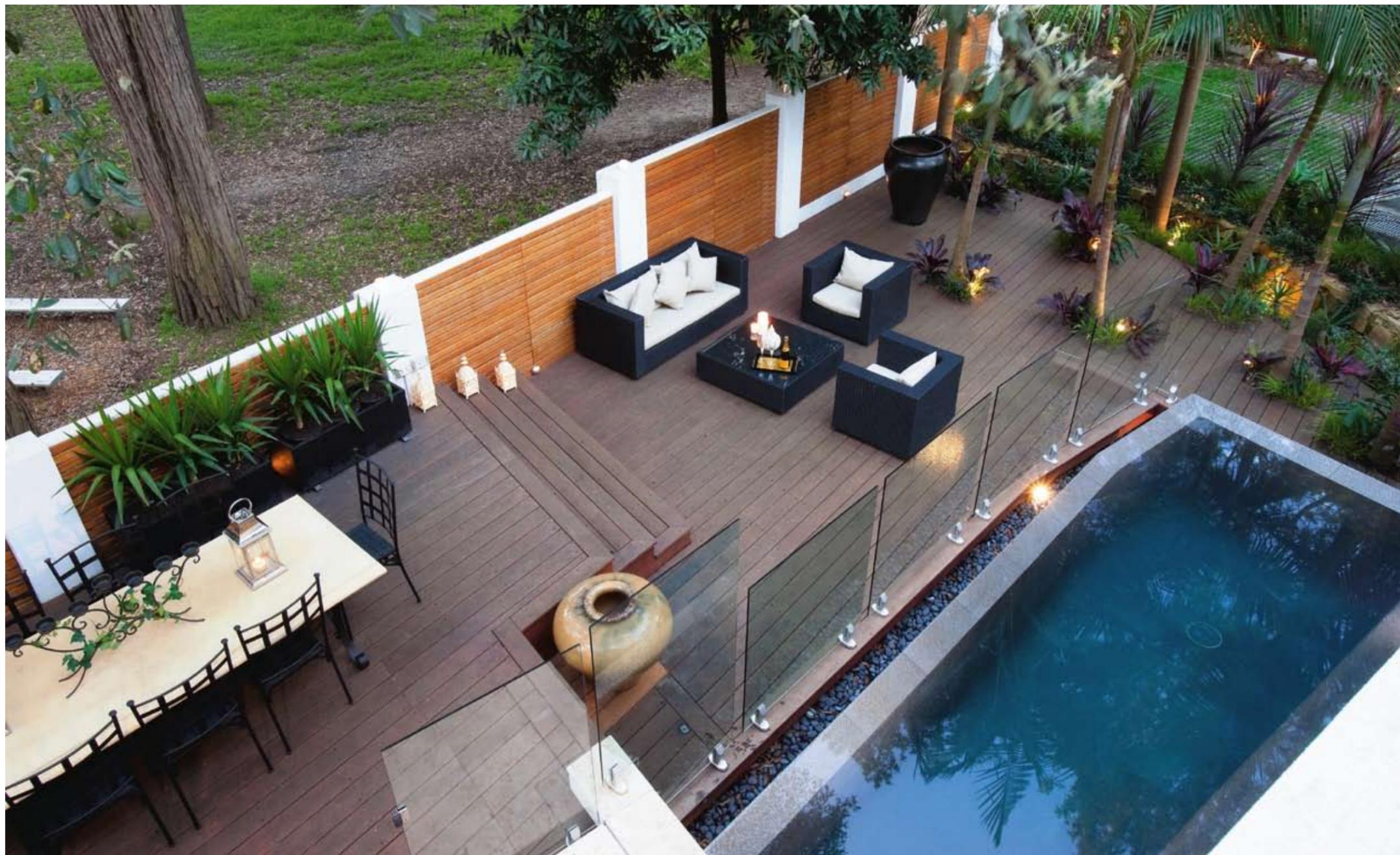
Due to the small sloped area, the pool was designed significantly above ground level to connect the space with the living rooms of the home. It is easily viewed and accessed from the alfresco area, and presents a wonderful outlook when dining with friends and family.

"The outdoor space flows seamlessly from the indoors, making it easily useable," says Julie when asked about key features of the overall design. "The multiple platforms allow for specific dining and lounging areas and the tropical feel makes it a joy to entertain in and gives it a resort-like feel."



ABOVE Timber decking was a practical design solution for the sloping area.

ABOVE RIGHT Charcoal-coloured tiles were used for the pool spillover.



The timber decking platforms hugging the pool structure provide Peter and Julie with several usable spaces for outdoor dining and relaxing. The sound of the water flowing over the pool's wet edge spillover is an added benefit. "The pool acts as a large water feature and brings a sense of tranquility to the space," describes Justin.

Peter and Julie frequently entertain and one of their favourite features of the overall design is how the outdoor space integrates their indoor living area with their outdoor domain.

"The outdoor area is an integral part of the home. It can be viewed from most rooms in the house and accessed easily from all downstairs rooms, so essentially it is another room," says Peter. "We leave the bi-fold doors fully open in both summer and winter when we are home," adds Julie. "We spend a lot of time on the deck, either entertaining or

just relaxing. We love the outdoors so even when it's raining we have the bi-fold doors open to feel at one with nature."

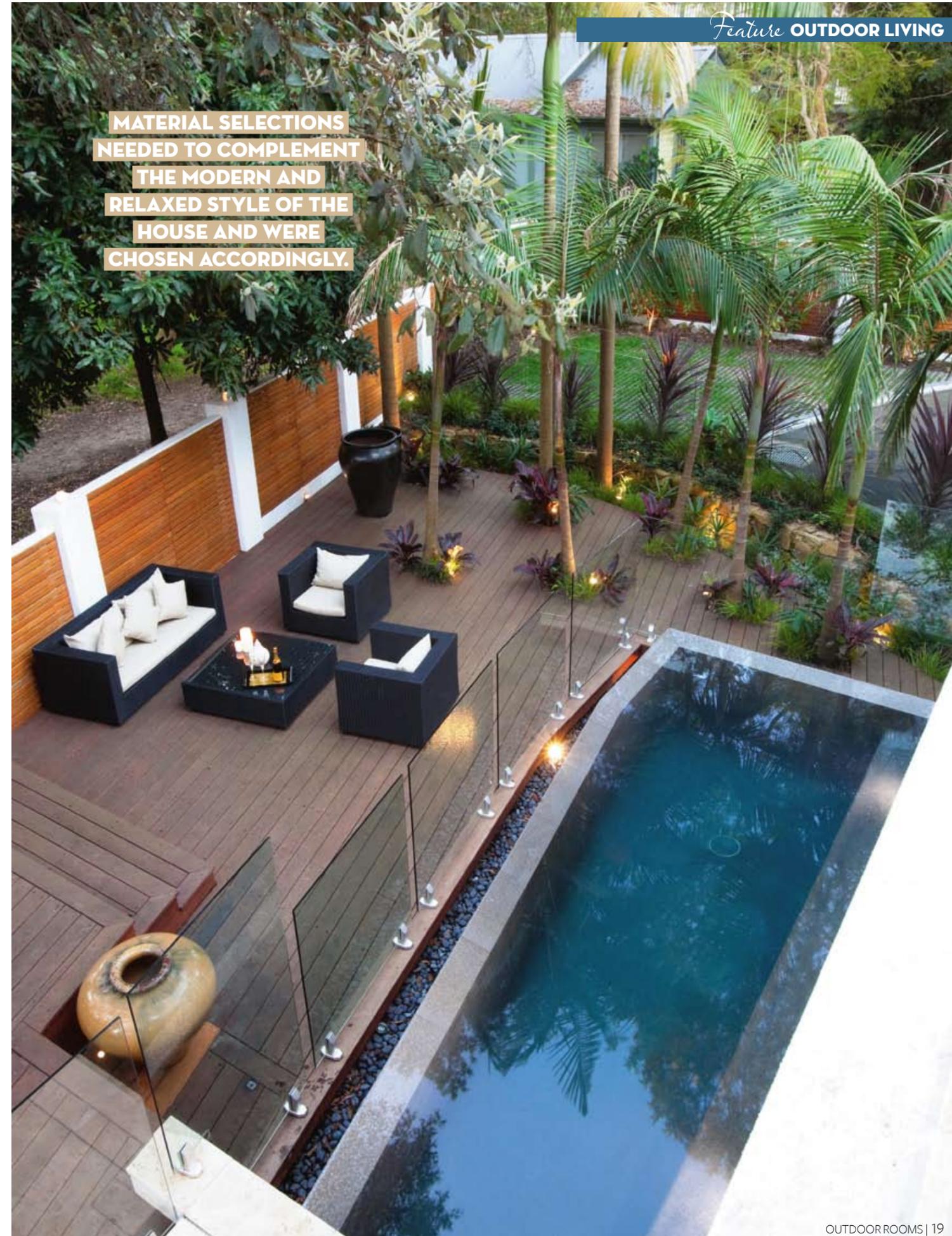
Material selections needed to complement the modern and relaxed style of the house and were chosen accordingly. "The area is surrounded by some large trees and doesn't get a lot of direct sunlight, so travertine tiles were selected to brighten the space," says Justin. Timber decking was used for the lower side of the pool as a practical design solution for the sloping area, which also allowed for a relaxed feel for lounging by the pool. "The charcoal-coloured spillover tile and Ebony Glow Gemtex interior bring a sense of luxury to the space as well as giving the pool an inviting and refreshing look," describes Justin.

As avid entertainers, Peter and Julie have found that the space lends itself to hosting both large and intimate groups. "We frequently entertain outdoors," says Julie. "We eat

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BELOW LEFT & BELOW RIGHT LED lighting was used for both the pool and garden spaces, highlighting key areas as the sun goes down.

LEFT A mixture of plantings such as Bangalow palms, cordylines, acorus, mondo grass and native ginger give the garden a tropical feel.



outside as a couple whenever the weather permits and we have entertained up to 40 people with in the outside area.”

LED lighting was used for both the pool and garden areas, continuing the energy efficiency philosophy that was incorporated into the house. “The lighting really brings this pool and garden to life once the sun goes down, providing a tranquil and relaxing mood in the garden,” says Justin.

Peter and Julie are also nature lovers, so a lush, green setting was a must. A tropical feel to the garden was achieved by using A mixture of plantings including Bangalow palms, cordylines, acorus, mondo grass, native ginger and Philodendron ‘Xanadu’ provide a tropical feel, and Cascade lilly pilly is used as a screen. The area is also surrounded by trees for a park-like feel.

Peter and Julie were delighted with their pool and garden space and look forward to spending many days and evenings entertaining friends and family in the future. The space works effortlessly with their lifestyle and was thoughtfully designed to incorporate their love of the outdoors and passion for entertaining within the one distinctive space. ■