

COUNTRY CHIC

Modern country living for a busy family





ABOVE Mature Canary Island date palms are a key point of interest within the space.
FAR RIGHT The pool bar is a perfect addition for entertaining guests in style.

The design of this rural garden, as with any landscaped garden, was to complement the style of architecture of the residence while meeting the requirements of a busy family.

Justin Dibble, Director and Principal Designer of Fluid Landscape Design worked closely with the architect and owners of the property to gain a solid understanding of what was required from a landscaping and outdoor entertaining perspective in order to achieve a successful result for the project as a whole. The overall outcome is a seamless integration between indoors and outdoors that maximises the use of space and breathtaking views across the rural landscape from every vantage point.

The front garden was to have an open feeling with sweeping lawns and gardens that soften the residence from the street. The rural-style post-and-rail front fence was chosen to be in keeping with the surrounding area, with two impressive entry points at each end. The modern stone-



clad blade walls and automatic sliding gates provide an impressive sense of entry to this acreage estate.

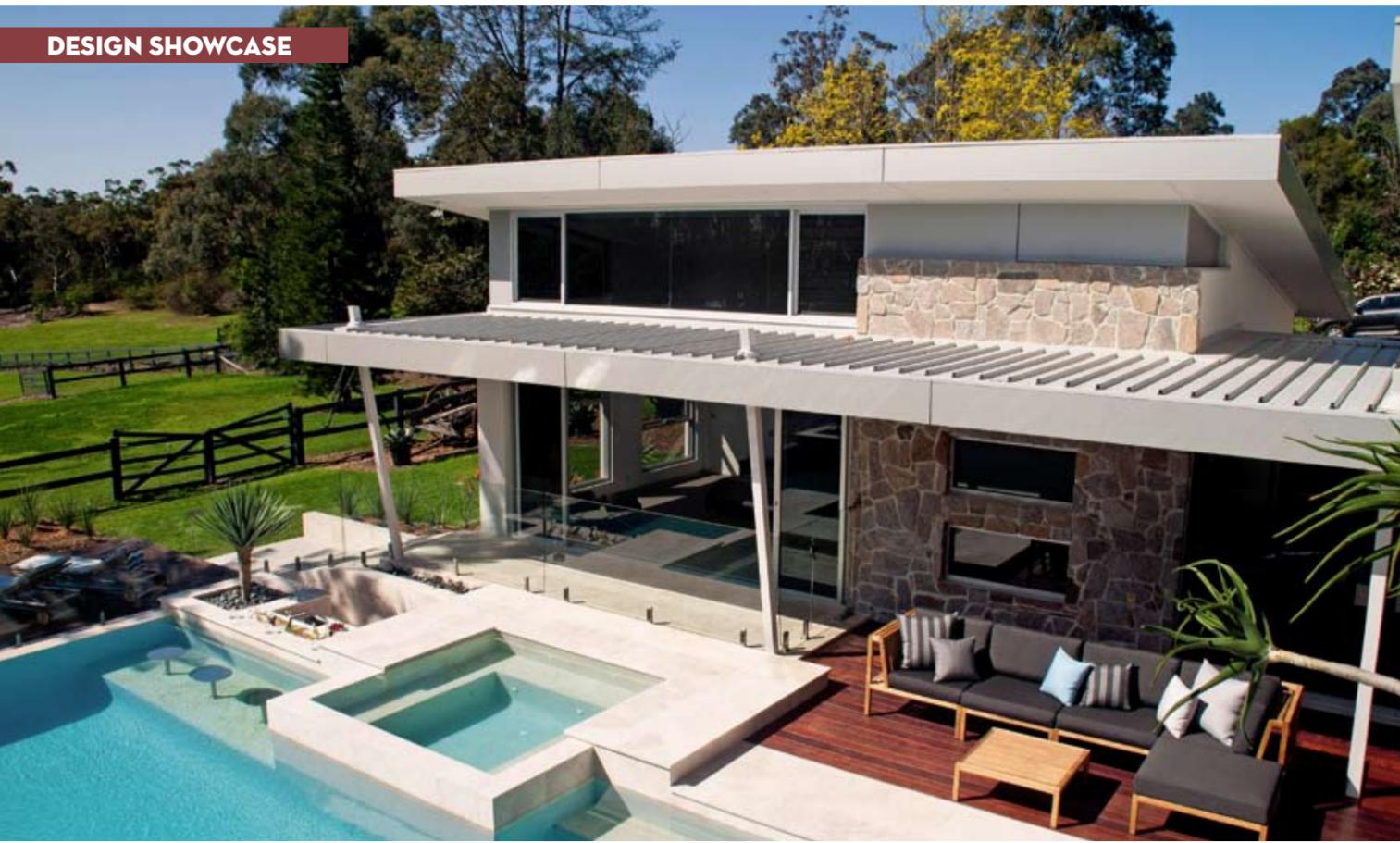
Once you have passed through the gates you are greeted by twin Canary Island date palms flanking each side of the porte-cochère adding a sense of grandeur to the front garden area while also softening the dominance of the dwelling.

On the approach to the front entry, you are greeted by a 30m-long lineal pond with bubblers that provide movement to the water stretching either side of the stone bridge that leads you to the pivoting front door. Once inside the home your immediate view is through floor-to-ceiling glass providing a stunning view along the length of the pool to the wet-edge spillover and the rural landscape beyond, which gives visitors an immediate sense of relaxation.

The use of space, the flow between each of the indoor and outdoor areas and maintaining the rural vista were the focus of this project. Linking inside rooms with outdoor rooms is always critical and this project was no exception. The living room and kitchen flow out to the expansive alfresco living area which houses a full outdoor kitchen and barbecue with a dining table and lounge suite overlooking the pool.

Visible from almost every room within the home, the pool area is the centre of attention. The pool is 16 metres long by 5.5 wide. A large shallow area for the kids surrounds the mature aloe tree island at one end; at the other, a swim-up bar for adults is also accessible from the spa. The 2.4x2.4m spa, located outside the parents' retreat, was designed for sneaky late-night relaxation with a view across to the outdoor TV for Friday-night football.

Flowing on from the alfresco area is the outdoor fire pit and lounge area, a space that can be used year round by large groups of family and friends.



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ABOVE The use of travertine paving and waterline tile provides a minimalistic and modern feel to the pool.

TOP LEFT The outdoor dining and living provides a generous amount of space for entertaining a large number of guests with ease.

Below the wet-edge spillover is the timber sundeck which has views into the rural landscape below. The sound of water slowly spilling over the wall of the pool gives a sense of tranquillity to the space, making it an inviting area to chill out, read a book or enjoy a Sunday nanna nap.

Heading out the west side of the home from the kitchen is a courtyard that leads to raised veggie garden beds constructed from reclaimed railway sleepers. Although this is a modern-style home, the owners still wanted to maintain a rural feel where their children can grow their own fruit and veggies and also look after some farm animals that are housed in the old barn on the property.

The outcome of this unique project is the engagement

of the senses with the functionality and flow between all living areas while being a fun and enjoyable home for the owners and their family. As principle designer Justin concludes, "It was a pleasure working with the architect and owners to create this unique project. The process was most enjoyable working with a team that understood and shared the same vision." ■

PROJECT DETAILS

Landscape design by **FLUID LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

WEBSITE www.fluidlandscapedesign.com.au