



TROPICAL
LOVE AFFAIR

A North Queensland feel
in a Sydney paradise

Words Justin Dibble Photos Blue Poppy



TOP The custom-made Ironbark daybed hut provides an ideal refuge for the clients to recline and relax.

ABOVE The noteworthy turquoise pool was constructed by Platinum Poolscares.



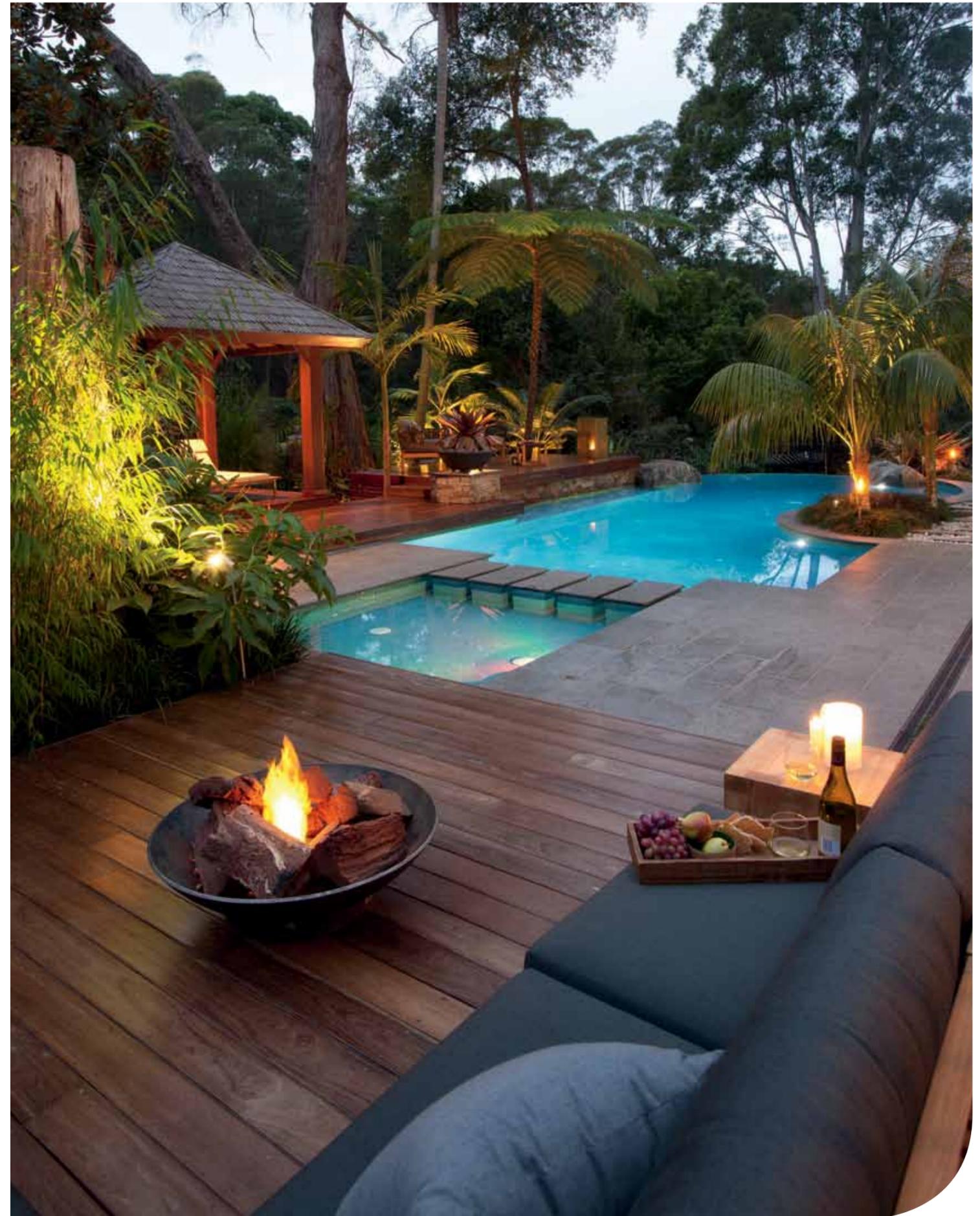
The owners of this property had previously spent time living in Far North Queensland where they fell in love with the tropics. So when they purchased this Sydney home the plan was to create a backyard oasis that resembled the relaxed feel of the tropics and provided their family with their very own piece of paradise.

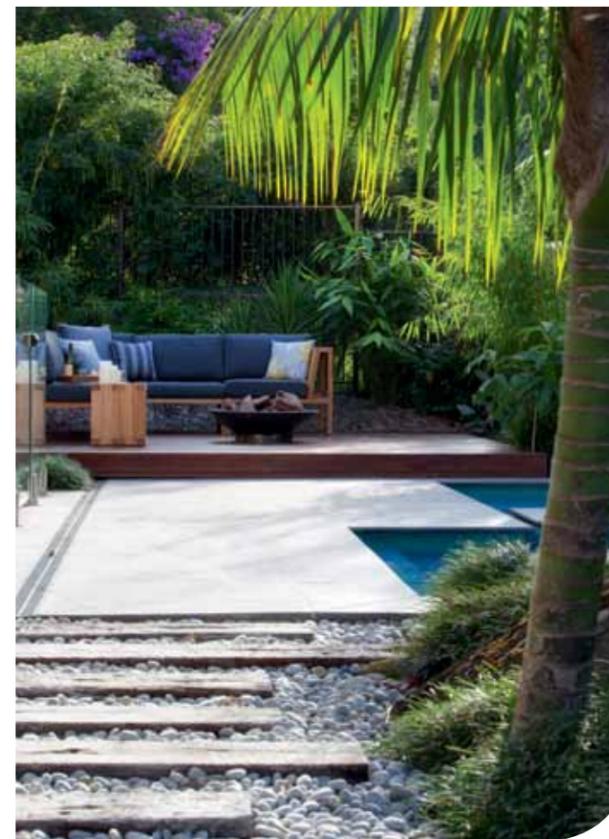
Having three young daughters, the owners' wishes were that the pool be the centre of attention, with several fun and interesting areas for entertaining and relaxing. Lush plantings, moving water and plenty of room for the girls' pool parties were also a must.

You wouldn't know it now, but the site was originally dark due to a number of large trees overcrowding the space and completely shading the backyard. Several trees had to therefore be removed in order to provide sunlight and open the space for the proposed pool area, while still maintaining the leafy surrounds.

The shape of the pool is a combination of straight lines and sweeping curves with three metre-wide entry steps, two deep-end swim outs and a shallow area for the kids with air jets and water spouts for a bit of backyard fun. Off to the side of the kid's area is the main timber deck, which is large enough to accommodate a full outdoor lounge suite or dining table.

The floating stepping stones dividing the shallow area from the main pool provide access to the custom-made Ironbark daybed hut, a perfect spot for the parents to relax while watching over the kids in the pool or for enjoying a well-deserved Sunday nanna nap. Adjacent to the daybed hut is an elevated timber deck constructed around a mature tree fern that is ideal for both sun lounges or for jumping into the deep end of the pool, which is always fun no matter your age. At the deep end of the pool two





LEFT Alpine stone from Eco Outdoor was used for the stonewalling.

ABOVE Raven granite paving from Eco Outdoor provides a sleek finish.

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large feature rocks were carefully placed by an excavator on a ledge inside the pool shell on each side of the wet edge spillover. This gives an affect reminiscent of a cascading stream in a rainforest, as the water disappears into the distance.

A swimming pool is a big investment and can be the most expensive item within a garden, so to get the best value year round from your pool you want to be able to see it and appreciate it. A well thought out pool design should not only create an entertaining and attractive environment for cooling off in the summer months, but it should also provide a stunning view from the main living areas of the home as well. The connection of the pool to these areas is an important element visually that also adds substantial value to your home.

As the living areas of this home are on the upstairs level, the owners are able to enjoy amazing views over the pool, particularly at night when the pool glows a brilliant turquoise blue.

The plants selected to complete the theme of this rainforest-inspired pool and garden area consists of Bangalow palms, Kentia palms, Cyathea tree ferns, clumping bamboo, gingers, lady palms, cordylines, cycads, birds nest ferns and bromeliads.

This is a pool and garden area that is hard to leave, yet easy to come home to. Hanging out in this outdoor space leaves you feeling calm and relaxed, which was what the owners were seeking in the design. They have reported back that they have a favourite spot for each time of the day, following the sun as it moves over the pool allowing them to maximise their outdoor living experience every day. 🌿

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