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backyard & garden design ideas

# backyard

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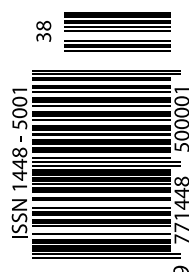
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*garden profile*

# DIVINE DESIGN

From the swimming pool to the entertaining pavilion, this design goes with the flow

Words: Justin Dibble

Photos: Blue Poppy Photography



*garden profile*

*"Each piece of the puzzle  
seamlessly fits with the next"*



*garden profile*

As this was a new home in a newly released estate, I was presented with a blank canvas — always a pleasure for a garden designer. Of course, as with any site, there were some restrictions. There were setbacks from the side and rear boundaries to be considered, there was a main sewer line and easement along the rear boundary that left only a narrow space for the swimming pool, and the home took up a large portion of the site.

The owners, a busy young couple with kids, dreamed of a contemporary garden, pool and poolside entertaining area with tropical resort-style planting. Their desire was to maximise the backyard with a pool that could be enjoyed by both kids and adults. Next to the pool they wanted a pavilion with all possible inclusions — a luxurious and comfortable space where they could spend time with friends and family while keeping an eye on the kids as they swim in the pool.

The pool, constructed by Splish Splash Pools, was designed to be the main feature of the backyard and completely visible from the house for when the children are enough to swim without direct supervision. With the pool observable from all main interior living areas, it needed to be interesting and impressive. From the Quartzon pool interior and glass mosaic waterline tiles to the Aquaquip pool lighting and semi-frameless glass fencing, care was taken with every detail.

To maximise the available space, the pool design incorporates a large swim-out area where the kids can play. There is even a small cave under the alfresco kitchen and dining area.

The poolside pavilion, the family's main gathering point, looks amazing at night thanks to the cedar-clad ceiling and downlights that highlight the two-metre feature wall with integrated waterfall — clad in Alpine stone →



## *garden profile*



from Eco Outdoor — that sits at one end of the pool and to the side of the pavilion. Adding both visual interest and sound to the landscape, this feature can be enjoyed from the pavilion or the pool.

Stepping stones, which seem to float, lead you across the pool to the pavilion where you will find a complete outdoor kitchen with built-in barbecue and fridge. A plasma TV was recessed into the stone pier, which supports the pavilion roof, and there is a built-in timber lounge suite for lazing around.

A large hardwood timber deck runs along the entire length of the pool. This provides the children with ample room as well as an

outdoor shower to warm them after a swim. Three bangalow palms protrude through the deck, which has flush-mounted lighting that makes the fronds glisten at night.

Screen planting of Eumundi quandong along the rear boundary and lilly pillies along the side boundaries provide privacy from neighbours and bring a sense of seclusion to the backyard. Fast-growing tropical-style plantings such as ctenanthe, ginger, cordyline and yucca were selected to add foliage colour and cover the boundary fence. The centrepiece of the backyard landscaping, all of which was carried out by Stafford Landscaping, is the floating island garden featuring a stunning

bismarck palm surrounded by grey anvil pebbles from Eco Outdoor.

All plants are maintained by a drip irrigation system fed by a rainwater tank hidden beneath the timber deck of the pavilion.

This design is based on function and space. Each piece of the puzzle seamlessly fits with the next, creating a landscape that not only looks great but feels nice to be in. The owners absolutely love their private sanctuary, especially at night when the lighting brings the pool and garden to life. ■

*Justin Dibble is the director and principal designer of Sydney-based Fluid Design.*

