

After purchasing this recently completed new home, my client invited me to view what was a blank canvas in the backyard of the property. The space had endless possibilities, with an existing covered entertaining area at the rear of the house, along with a small lap pool to the side. The garden itself lacked style and purpose and needed an aspect to draw people in.

One advantage of modern architecture is open-plan living, which results in wide spaces with large viewports, not only inside the house, but also in the external spaces. This was the case with this property, which provided the opportunity to complete a design that not only signifies use, but also

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R A N D W I C K invites the occupant to interact with it. The sight lines from within the home offered a number of opportunities that played a strong part in influencing the complete project.

To express and stretch the view through the space, the floor was laid out in a linear fashion with long hardwood decking accompanying large porcelain tiles measuring 1200mm by 600mm. This combination of products gives interest to the space, drawing the eye through to the planting to the rear. On one side of the property two water-feature troughs were laid in the same linear manner, housing small bubblers for sight and sound, which are illuminated in the evening. At the end of one of the troughs a mirror was installed on

the wall, giving an extended illusion of the water feature as viewed from the internal staircase. At the centre of the landscaping is a stunning lounge area set among the vegetation and communicating a clear message about the use of space. With a sculpture at the rear and an outdoor kitchen, the space conveys a mood of relaxation – a place to share with those closest.

The planting scheme continues this tone, consisting of a blend of modern and lush, leafy plantings of ornamental ginger (*Alpinia* spp.), Mexican lily (*Beschorneria yuccoides*), bangalow palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), century plants (*Agave attenuata*) and variegated mondo (*Ophiopogon intermedians* 'Stripey White'). Two frangipani trees were moved into position by crane; once mature they will provide additional shelter during the summer months. The inclusion of rhoeo (*Tradescantia spathacea*) completes the theme, while small cape rush (*Chondropetalum tectorum*) at the side of the water feature emulates reeds among the pebbles.







