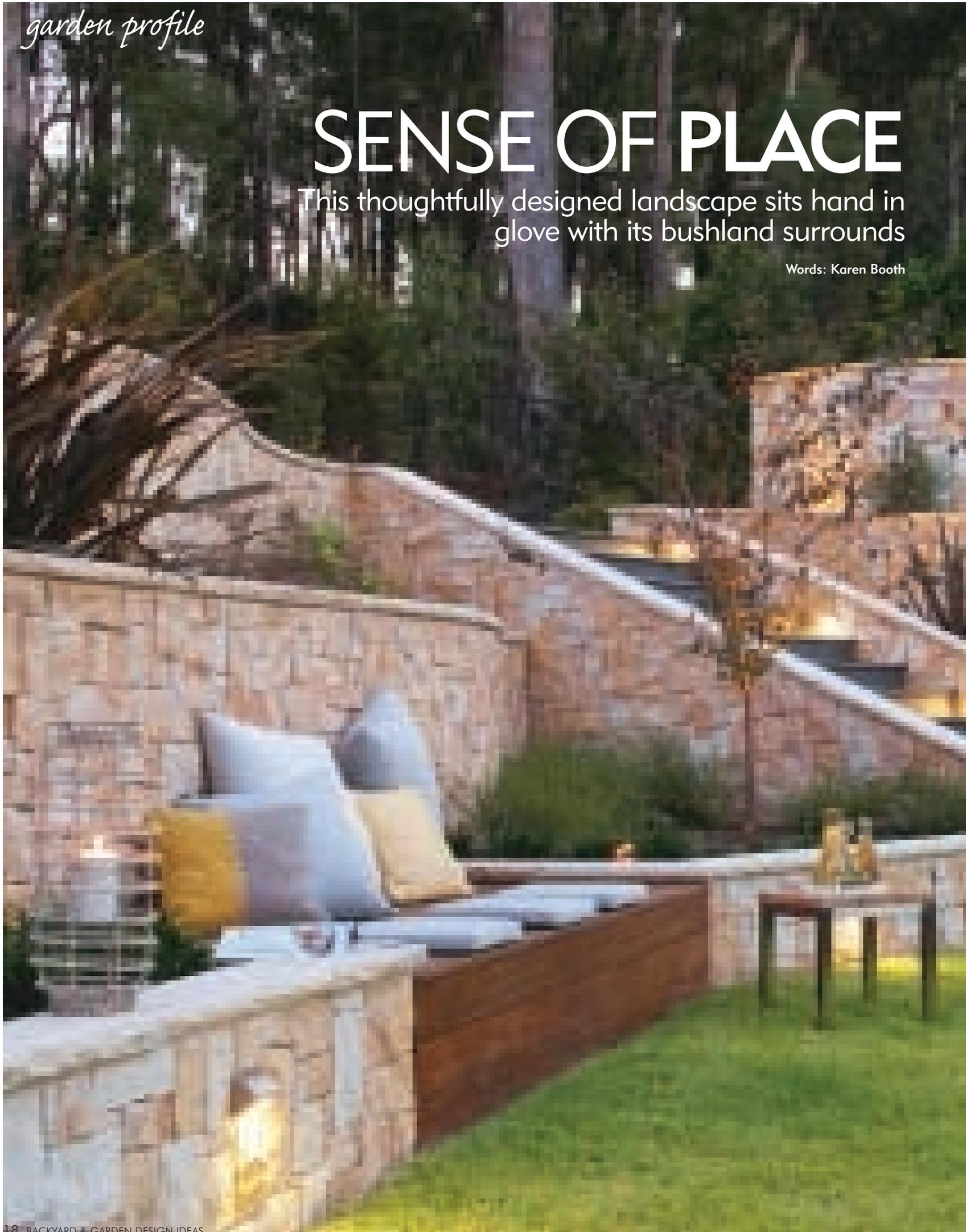


SENSE OF PLACE

This thoughtfully designed landscape sits hand in glove with its bushland surrounds

Words: Karen Booth





garden profile



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statement. This meant the canny selection of tiling for the pool's interior and paving for the pool surrounds.

"The tiles we chose — a mix of glistening blue, silver and black Bisazza glass mosaic tiles — creates a sense of movement and a shimmering effect that imitates the foliage of the surrounding bushland, reflected on the surface of the water," says Amanda.

"The use of light-grey, large-format paving for the pool surrounds and coping adds further

contrast to the deep, intense colours of the pool's interior," she adds.

Once the pool was constructed, the next task was to determine how the surrounding level changes would be managed. The decision was made to create two separate main areas with a wide staircase serving as the transition point between them. The creation of the stairs allowed for the construction of large garden beds. Each garden bed was built of sandstone and provides ample room for interesting →



Surrounded by natural bushland and claiming a backdrop of tall, well-established trees, this authentically Australian garden is a showcase for the work of Sydney landscape designer Amanda Elboz of Space Landscape Designs. Although the designed landscape sits hand in glove with its natural surrounds, designing for such a vast property with such a steep slope posed a variety of challenges.

"The key to resolving these challenges was to be ever-mindful of the scale of the garden and the unique purpose of each of its areas. Once each area was designated a use, it was then a matter of dealing with the slope of the site and introducing various level changes to create usable living spaces," explains Amanda.

Keen to fully embrace the best of outdoor living, the owners of this impressive property wanted the new swimming pool to form the centrepiece of the design and make a bold



garden profile

"The intent was to create a modern design around the pool and house"



elevated timber walkway that takes you right into the heart of the bushland that wraps around the property.

Considering the size of the property, planting was kept to a minimum. Explains Amanda: "The intent was to create a modern design around the pool and house using exotic plantings, with a shift towards native plantings around the outer perimeter where the garden blends into the bush surrounds.

"To ensure nothing detracted from the bushland view, *Lomandra 'Tanika'*, a fine-leaved native grass, was planted en masse with specimen plantings of grass trees, tuckeroo trees and cherry blossoms used as feature plantings. Subtle groundcover plants complete the picture."

Well, they almost complete the picture. It's actually the well-considered lighting scheme that adds the finishing flourish, highlighting focal points, adding ambience and making it safe to use the pool and garden areas as daylight fades. ■

planting and a generous area for a timber daybed bench.

"The random stacked sandstone walls are the predominant features of the garden, bringing a natural element into the landscape in a sophisticated way," explains Amanda. "The curved walls are a spectacular sight and were masterfully constructed by Asset Landscapes.

"The main curved wall on the upper level acts as a backdrop for the intimate fire-pit seating area. This space comes into its own at dusk when the golden glow of the fire, along with the subtle lighting, gently illuminates the area. From this vantage point, the entire garden can be viewed."

The sandstone walling also links the lower level of the pool area with the rest of the garden. This level features the use of another natural hard landscaping element: wide-board, hardwood timber decking. An extremely tranquil space, the lower level features an



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