



A LITTLE GOES *a long way*

Renovating a backyard is no easy feat in itself, add an already established in-ground pool to the mix and you have one very challenging project! Luckily for these homeowners, Jason Elboz from Space Landscape Designs was able to completely re-design and re-structure the backyard to fit a plunge pool, lawn and outdoor dining and barbecue alfresco area. Here, Jason talks about the project on Sydney's upper North Shore and fitting it all in.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON ELBOZ

THE BRIEF

Originally the backyard had a pool but it was simply too big for the site and meant there was no surrounding space available. Because of this the clients wanted to transform the unusable outdoor area into a space for entertaining, playing and relaxing.

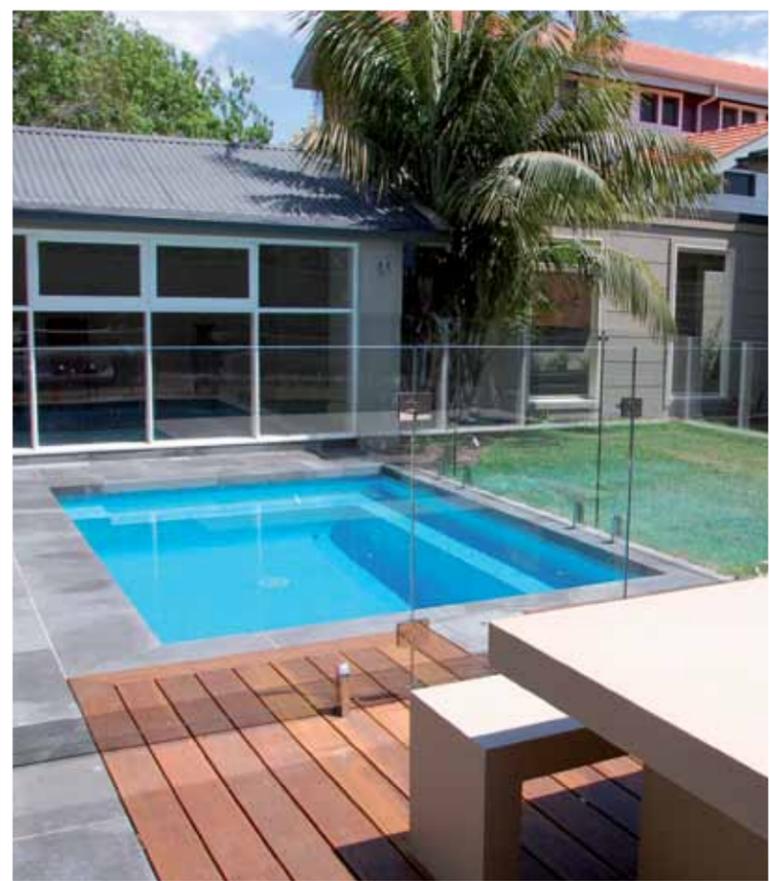
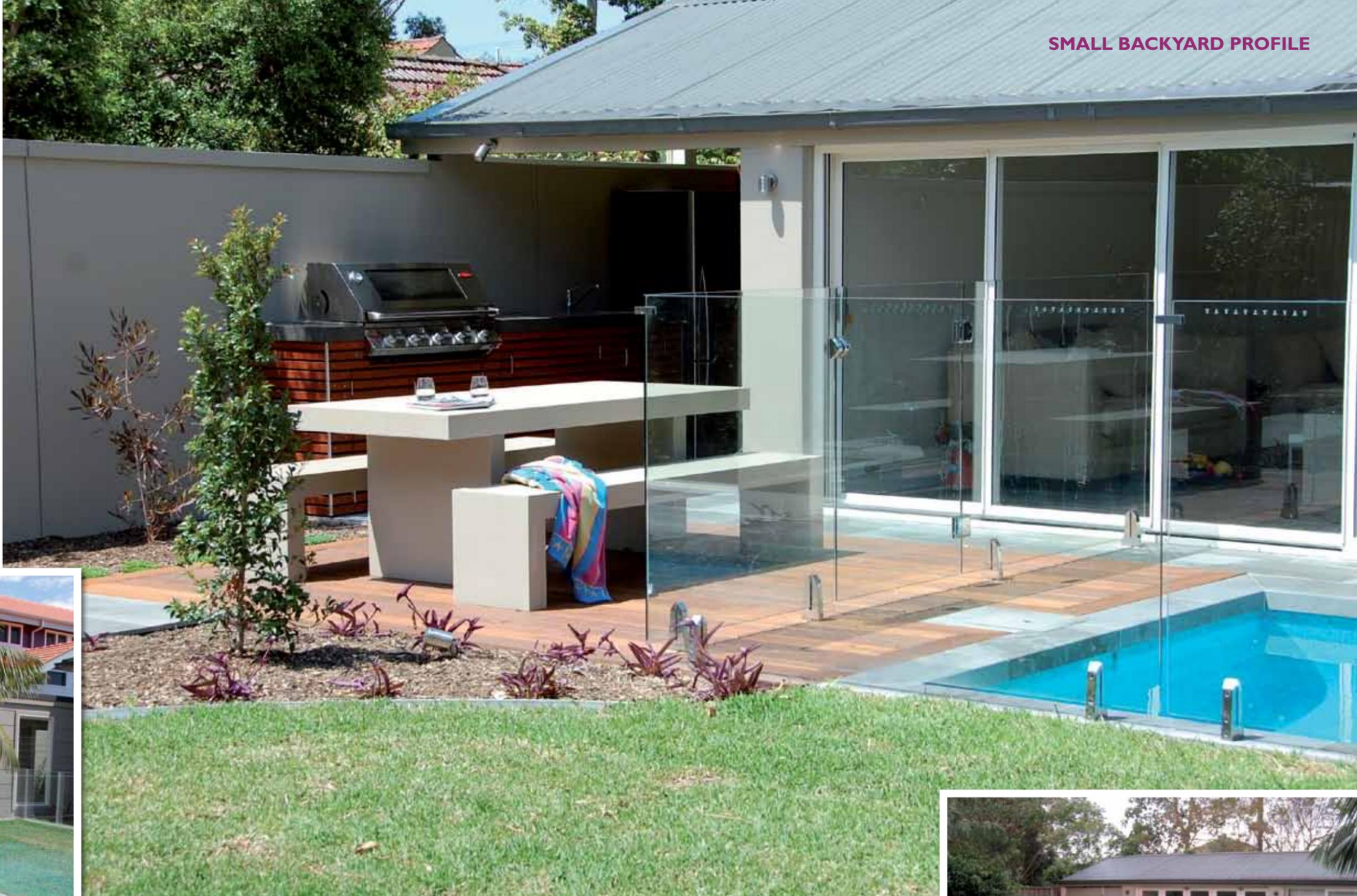
The clients requested a small plunge pool that didn't dominate the entire backyard and for a connection to be established between the house, the outdoor area and the existing pool-house at the rear of the property.

With young, active children to consider, the clients also wanted a lawn for their kids to play. For the adults, an outdoor barbecue and dining area was desired.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Working with the existing structures of the pool-house and in-ground pool, we found the ideal location for the plunge pool was at the right angle corner of the pool house. This position meant the new pool could be accessed from three sides but also could be tucked away with room for all the other requirements.

Due to constant exposure to the sun and rain, only natural materials were chosen for the outdoor area. Bluestone and Australian Hardwood timber were selected to blend in with the earthy tones of the house.



THE PROJECT

The pool-house was modified to become two sides of the pool enclosure with the remaining two sides formed by a sleek, frameless glass fence.

The landscape design included a timber deck adjoining with the pool – this was designed to create an outdoor entertaining and dining area. The barbecue alfresco design was built into

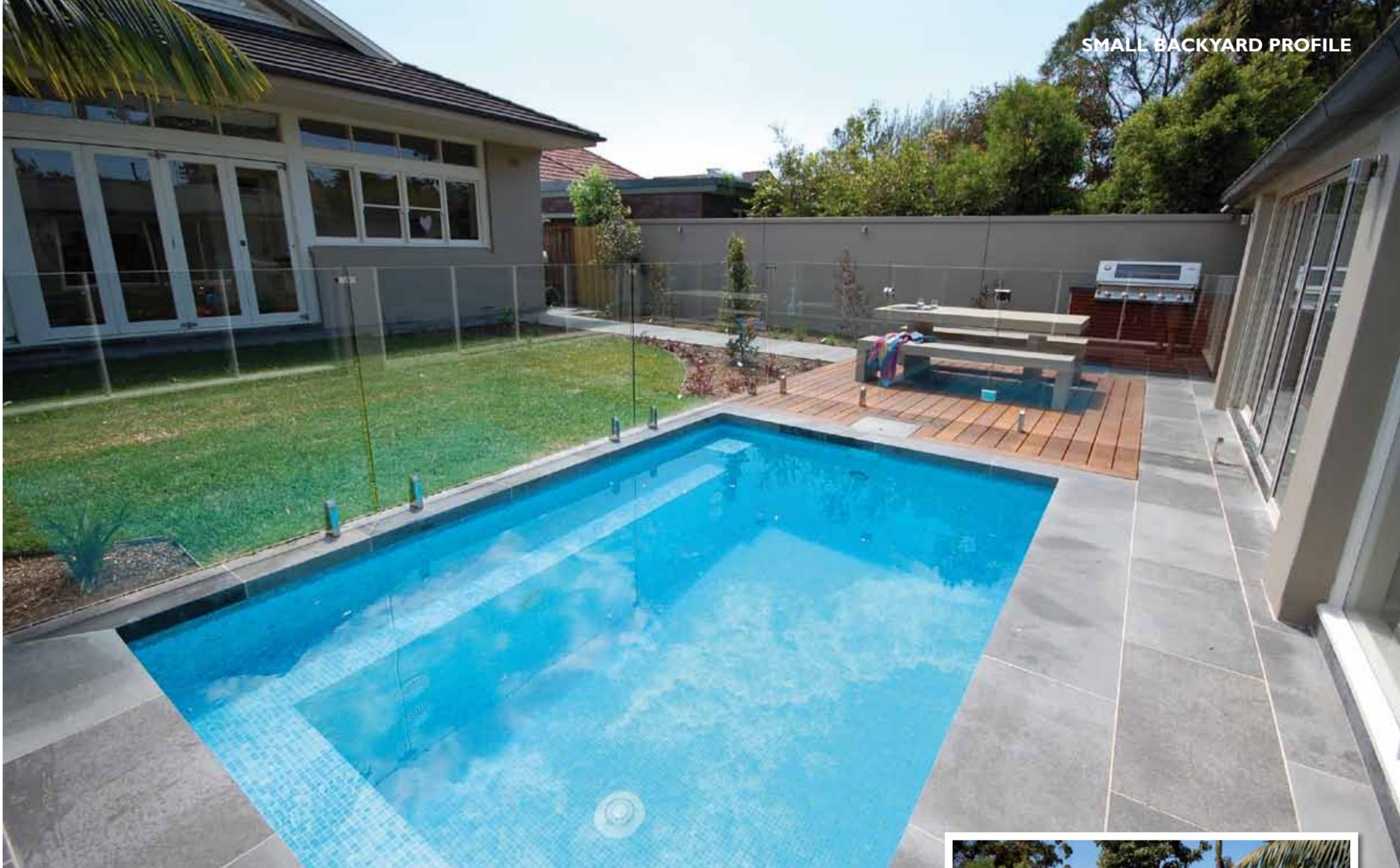
the modified services room of the pool-house. By extending the bench-top from inside the services room to the outside, this allowed the whole space to open up.

An enclosed, roofed hallway was designed to link the main house to the pool-house so the clients could use it as an additional entertaining area for events like dinner parties.

The hallway connection is a formal, weather-proof passage with louvered windows on one side providing a glimpse of the garden. It also creates a sense of journey for guests while a large single pane glass window on the other



BEFORE



side of the passage offers a view of a miniature bamboo garden and decorative art screen on the boundary wall.

Blustone was used around the pool and walkways, while Spotted Gum timber surrounds the plunge pool and glass mosaics were used for the pool interior.

PLANTING

Lilly Pillies were used as screen planting on the boundary, while low ground covers and native grasses were used in garden beds surrounding the walkways and lawn area. The plants were specifically selected for being low maintenance – this allows the clients to enjoy their new backyard without having to worry about the plants.

CHALLENGES

Removing the old pool and building the new plunge pool close to the out building was challenge as the out building had to be underpinned so it would not fall into the pool excavation.

RESULT

Being a small plunge pool (4m x 3m) with heating attached allows the pool to be operational all year round.

Overall, the pool, lawn and outdoor dining and barbecue alfresco area makes the most of the small backyard allowing the clients and their children to enjoy an outdoor lifestyle.

