

All in ONE

Modern, low maintenance and family-friendly – landscape designer Jason Elboz of Space Landscape designs opens the garden gates to the stylish and contemporary outdoor area he and his team created in Sydney's Northern Beaches.

PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD BIRCH





CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE

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BRIEF

The clients wanted a modern, low maintenance front and backyard that could be used all year round and featured minimal, low maintenance planting with some hedges at the rear for privacy around the pool area.

The existing structures were to remain – this included retaining walls, decks, pool and raised garden beds. Also, the client requested existing plants to remain where possible. The client wanted all concrete pavers to be replaced with natural stone and the pool to be fully tiled. In the backyard the removal of an existing large rockery was to be replaced with retaining walls to increase the lawn space. Lastly, a new colour scheme for the finishes to the property were selected to create a modern crisp and clean finish.



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THE PROJECT

Originally, the garden was quite disorganised. There were too many different types of materials that required a lot of maintenance, but as the existing front and backyard had the structural elements in place it was the materials and finishes that were going to transform this property.

Customised large granite pavers for the entrance and stairs created a sense of space – the natural finish also softens the hardscape and worked well with the contrasting black and white colour scheme chosen for the existing retaining walls.

A timber entrance walkway replaced concrete pavers that also brought a softer, more natural element into the design. The new deck will not be oiled but allowed to weather – this reflects the beachside location and natural environment.

New mosaic tiles to the interior of the pool created a glistening sparkle, making the pool the main feature of the backyard, while a vertical cedar timber screen on the eastern side created an amazing feature for the pool area and contrasted with the existing merbau deck.

The barbecue area was transformed with a bluestone

benchtap and stainless steel doors. Terraced stone clad retaining walls replaced rock walls and a customised curved bench seat softened the sharp lines and flowed into the curved wall. New granite pavers matching the front replaced the existing concrete pavers on the path and stairs.

Boundary fences were painted black so the lush green planting would pop, while the existing rendered walls were painted off-white to match the front house, but also contrast with the black and create a sense of a more open space.





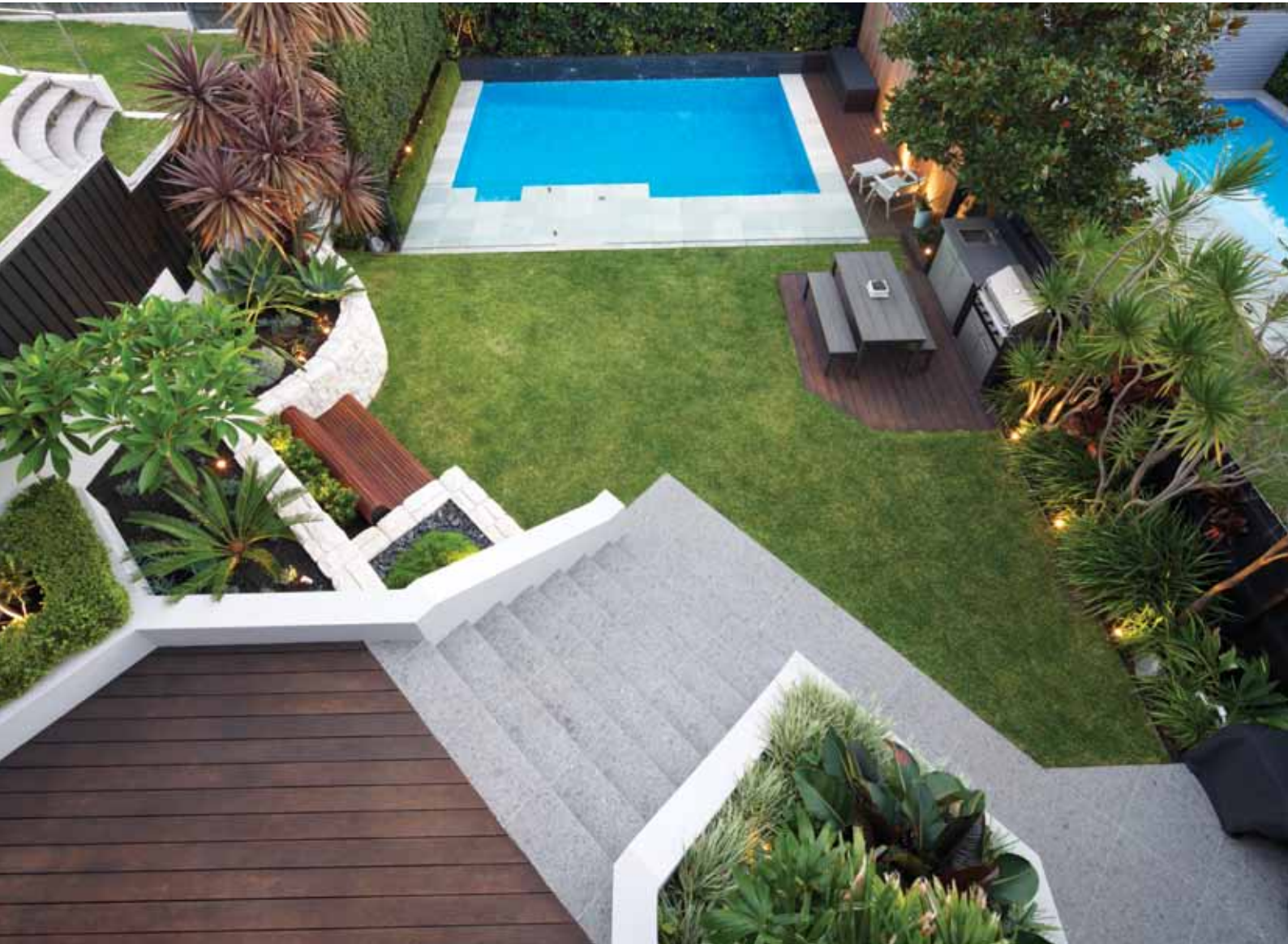
PLANTING

New architectural plants such as the aloe and agaves were added to keep the strong lines and modern feel of the landscape design.

CHALLENGES

The access to the site was the main challenge. All fill and rocks from the existing garden needed to be wheelbarrowed out along a narrow boundary. Luckily, there was an opportunity to retain some existing planting and incorporate it into the new design. This allowed the garden to look quite established at completion.





RESULT

The ideal space for fun, relaxation and alfresco entertaining – this backyard is at its best in the summer months. Favourite features include the large granite pavers that are the entrance to the property, plus the LED lights that are installed below the stairs.

As the client specifically requested a low maintenance design, the decks need to be oiled every nine months, while the rest of the garden requires very little work. ■

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