

A photograph of a modern outdoor kitchen and dining area. The space is covered by a pergola with a white metal roof and light-colored wooden beams. The kitchen features dark grey cabinetry, a white countertop with a sink, and a built-in grill. A wooden dining table with six matching chairs is set up on a dark wood deck. In the background, there are green trees and a house with a red roof. A swimming pool is visible in the bottom right corner.

FAMILY *matters*

Hoping to update their tired-looking backyard, the owners of this family home on Sydney's North Shore called on Amanda Elboz and her team at Space Landscape Designs to work their landscaping magic. Here, Amanda tells Danielle Hanrahan about what they wanted to create and how they did it.





THE BRIEF

The main specification the owners made was to incorporate the existing pool into the new design with an outdoor entertaining area to complement it. They also hoped to have allocated spaces for different functions such as an outdoor kitchen, a children's play area and a vegetable garden. After taking what our clients wanted on board, we decided to create a harmonious blend of all the many functions a family garden needs to serve, linked together by the repetition of hard landscaping materials and low-maintenance plants.

THE PROJECT

Timber was the main material used, including in the elegant frame around the cabana which was built to be the focal point of the garden. The decking and horizontal screens enhance the frame, and the entire design is beautifully touched off by the leafy canopy of the surrounding trees.





Large-format pavers were used to update the original pool as well as other areas of the garden. Resurfacing the pool also transformed it into an inviting deep blue showpiece, while glass and black metal pool fencing completed its new modern look.

THE HIGHLIGHT

The best bit about this project was bringing together what was a disjointed space, where there was no continuity or thought to the design, into a flowing and cohesive garden that reflects the relaxed nature of the family and their home. The lushness of the selected plants and the healthy lawn, along with the warmth of the timber and the sparkling colour of the swimming pool create a relaxing backyard oasis for the whole family to enjoy.

THE RESULT

The clients' response to their new and improved backyard was, "It's party time!" They were ready to invite all their friends over to enjoy the relaxing area by the pool, outdoor undercover kitchen and





entertaining area along with a two-storey cubby house, trampoline and swing set for the kids and the kids at heart.

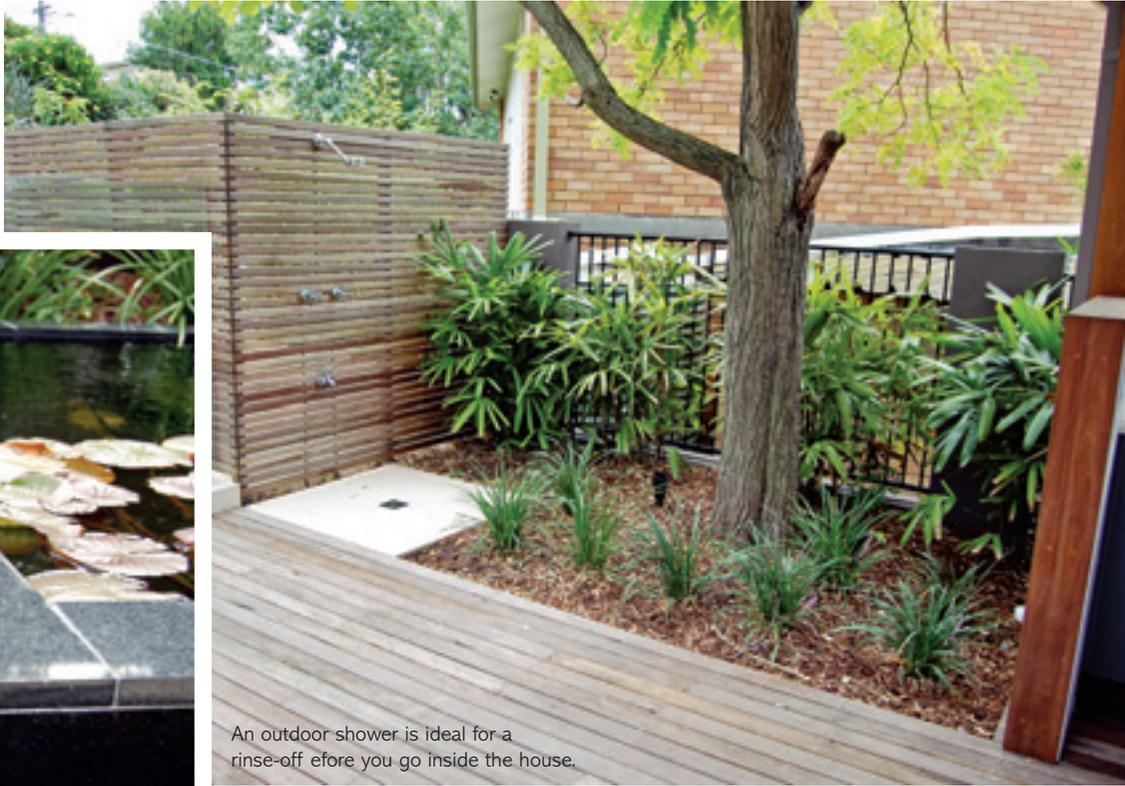
The clients were involved in all aspects of the decision-making process, relying on our experience to inform them of what would work and how to get the best results.

So, having seen their ideas go from paper to reality, they were nothing but thrilled with the outcome of the project.

AMANDA'S TOP TIPS

For those wanting to incorporate native Australian plants into their backyard, the best are the species found around your local area; adding a few of them to a garden helps re-create the natural environment and they generally perform better as they are suited to the area's climate and soil.

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An outdoor shower is ideal for a rinse-off before you go inside the house.



Kids only:
Space was kept aside for the children's play area