

AN *idyllic* RETREAT

Inspired by the beauty of the natural surroundings, Amanda Elboz and her team at Space Landscape Designs transformed this sprawling Sydney backyard into an outdoor oasis. Here she tells us how she did it.

BY DANIELLE HANRAHAN



What were you hoping to create with this space?

This project needed to be strong and impressive to complement the beautiful residence. It was important to use as many natural construction materials as possible so that we could create a sense of place with the surrounding native bushland. The random stacked sandstone walling was to be the dominant design element while the aim of the garden was to create a modern frame around the swimming pool and house. We used a lot of native Australian plants around the outer perimeter to blend the property with its bush environment.

What were the owners' specifications?

The main request was to remove the existing boulder rock retaining wall and create a new level with useable areas that feel intimate with the surrounding

environment. They also wanted separate entertaining areas and relaxing destinations, as well as a selection of natural materials to suit their home's location.

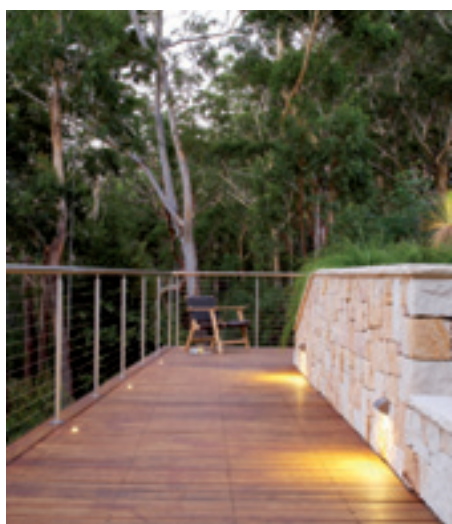
What materials were used?

Sandstone cladding was used in a random pattern for all walling, completed with sandstone capping. Wide-board, hardwood timber decking was used around the pool and as an elevated walkway that continues right to the heart of the bushland. The mosaic Bisazza tiles were selected to produce a glistening glass-like effect, reflecting the bush canopy as a mirror image of what lies in the distance. The combination of black, blue and silver tiles creates a luxurious feel as well as a sense of movement, inviting all who see the pool to dive right in. A large-format grey paver was selected for the pool surrounds because it contrasts perfectly with the colours of the



ABOUT SPACE LANDSCAPE DESIGNS

Founded by Jason and Amanda Elboz, Space Landscape Designs create innovative and functional outdoor spaces with a focus on complementing the natural environment and the surrounding architecture of a home. Visit www.spacedesigns.com.au for more information.



pool interior and brings out the green of the surrounding trees. A selection of charcoal pebbles was used in the balance tank of the pool to offset the tiles, pavers and decking of the area.

What was your favourite part of the project?

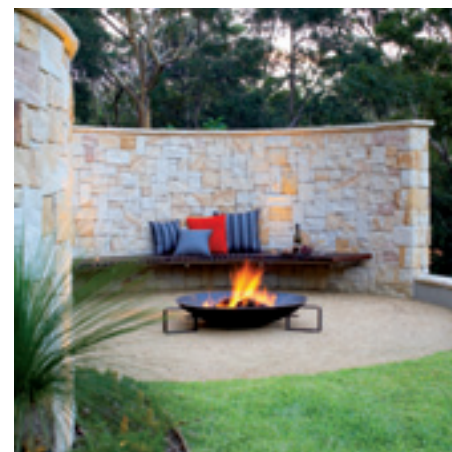
Watching the progress of the walls getting constructed was amazing! The talent of the landscape construction crew was evident as each element of the design sprang to life. Ultimately, it's always wonderful to watch the finishing touches of the plants get installed because they really add life to the whole project.

What did you find to be the greatest challenge?

It was definitely the change in levels but, having said that, it was also what made this project so exciting. It's often the greatest challenge that gets the most focus and inevitably the most successful result!

What was the client's response to the finished project?

They were blown away. They loved the way



the separate areas flow together and how all the design elements create a really harmonious space.

What are some of the best plants to grow for Australian gardens?

For this garden, architectural exotic plantings were used around the pool and house to act as a contrast to the native plants around the perimeter of the property. Lomandra 'Tanika' is a grass-like native which is low maintenance and can suit most climates, while grass trees and tuckeroos were used as feature plants.