



The good life

Designed for year-round entertaining,
this coastal garden is a true haven



AN UNATTRACTIVE AND UNDERUTILISED AREA OF garden has been transformed to give the owners of this coastal property an inviting entertaining space that works as an extension of their home.

The newly created entertaining area is framed by a bold timber pergola with a weatherproof roof so it can be used all year round. The owners' every entertaining need was considered when Space Landscape Designs designed this area, resulting in the inclusion of a bar fridge and bar sink, a built-in stainless-steel barbecue with stainless-steel benchtops and a wood-fired pizza oven. Space Landscape Designs also ensured there would be room for a large table setting and a relaxing lounge area.

To differentiate between the various areas of the garden, contrasting floor materials were used. In the entertaining area, timber decking was used to complement the timber-framed pergola, privacy screens and built-in cabinetry. In contrast, the open area of the garden was paved in sandstone flagging, bringing another natural material into the garden. The timber work is again picked up by the built-in timber seating that has been constructed around the perimeter of the courtyard.

Working with the level changes, Space Landscape Designs used strong geometrical lines in the form of rendered block walls to separate the entertaining, garden and pool areas. The walls are painted a rich deep chocolate, which

Project details

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contrasts beautifully with the sandstone pavers used throughout the garden and the sandstone steps that lead you to a large family swimming pool that receives many hours of use by the owners.

The planting has been kept quite simple and architectural, using the one species in swathes for dramatic effect. Gardenia, variegated lirioppe, Indian hawthorn, viburnum, yuccas, purple New Zealand flax, cordylines and olive trees have been used throughout. These plants are all quite low maintenance — the shrubs and trees only need tip pruning a few times a year; the strappy-leaved plants just require the removal of discolouring foliage. Add to this the occasional application of

fertiliser and topping up of the mulch and the soil and plants maintain optimum health.

The success of this garden lies in the seamless transition Space Landscape Designs has created between the home and the garden, in particular the entertaining area. Once the home's bi-fold doors are open wide, it's easy to forget where the indoor and outdoor areas begin. One of the most popular elements of the design is the very special wood-fired pizza oven, which is used continuously throughout the year. The owners have been pleasantly surprised by the oven's multiple uses. In addition to cooking delicious pizzas and other dishes, it acts as a lovely outdoor heater during the cooler months.

