



*sitting pretty*

Cathy and Lance's new L-shaped deck is made for easy living. Here, a 'Rest' chair and 'CU' table, both from Fanuli Furniture, provide the perfect spot for a morning coffee. The French postal stamp cushion is from Marshmellow.

## all decked out

One family's re-imagined outdoor space reflects the life they love

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**CRAVING THE OUTDOOR LIFE**, Cathy and her husband Lance had sunshine on their minds when renovating their villa on Sydney's Northern Beaches, so overhauling the backyard at the same time was a top priority. The couple called on Space Landscape Designs to interpret their ideas for a chic entertaining zone and play area for their two young children: out went the untidy terraces and in came a levelled lawn, a pool and an L-shaped decked space – complete with an outdoor kitchen, dining and lounge area.

The family now enjoys this gorgeous space year-round thanks to cleverly positioned skylights and an outdoor heater. Bi-fold doors separate the indoor kitchen from the outdoor version, and can be folded right back, while the outdoor cabinetry and finishes were selected to echo those used inside.

Positioning the exterior kitchen to flow from its interior sibling was a last-minute decision that has paid dividends: all the benefits of the fully-equipped indoor kitchen are just a few steps away. >

## dining out

Entertaining is a breeze on the enclosed deck. The couple's existing Beefeater barbecue and stainless-steel sink were incorporated into cabinetry built by Seabreeze Kitchens. A 'Nest Weave' hemp rug by Armadillo & Co centres the dining zone, which features colourful Fanuli Furniture 'Plana' chairs.



## comfort factor

The cosy deck is wired for both the television and music system. "The area is all zoned so that someone can listen to music in the dining area while someone else watches TV in the lounge," says Cathy. Outdoor lounges and ottomans (try Equator Homewares), are dressed with cushions from Pure & General, Tait Outdoor and Marshmallow. The cabinetry (below left) is hard-wearing marine ply with a polyurethane finish in Dulux Braid; the benchtops are Caesarstone in Mink.



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< Smart design continues in the comfortable lounge, where the paraphernalia for the wall-hung TV – set-top box, DVD player and sound system – is tucked away under the stairs inside, so there's no ugly cable spaghetti on show. The space backs on to a bathroom which can also be accessed via a side door, meaning that pool users don't have to traipse across the deck to shower off and change.

While the project was not without setbacks – heavy rain delayed construction of the pool – the family has put the renovation behind them and are enjoying their new space. "Now, the kids are out there swimming while I'm cooking, and I can always keep an eye on them," says Cathy. "In winter, we put on the gas heater and we all sit out here. For an outdoor family, it just works."

Contact Space Landscape Designs on (02) 9905 7870, or visit [spacedesigns.com.au](http://spacedesigns.com.au).



## always greener

Large pots from Garden Life add a lush, earthy feel and contrast with the timber decking. Northern Box, a practical hardwood that doesn't leach, was chosen for its practicality and durability. Metal louvres above the barbecue allow cooking smoke and odours to escape and can be adjusted to keep out the rain. They were painted in Colorbond Windspray to match the posts at each end of the deck (above). Try LG for a similar wine fridge.



## pool of tranquility

The workings for the pool are tucked away behind a wall of heavily sealed marble from Amber Tiles, which also incorporates a handsome water feature. "We like the sound of running water when we're sitting out here having breakfast, and it looks so nice, too," explains Cathy. 