

Perfect match

The owners of this recently renovated Perth home now have a garden of equal stature

The large contemporary-style deck provides a place where the family can entertain year-round.





“Of contemporary design, all areas of the newly renovated rear garden have a wonderful feeling of warmth”



ABOVE The tiered water feature is not only the chief focal point, it also connects the various garden spaces.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP To one side of the deck there is an expanse of travertine paving and a corner conversation nook.

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM The covered outdoor kitchen incorporates a pizza oven, in-built barbecue, sink and ample storage.

WORDS: Karen Booth **PHOTOS:** Ron Tan

Having completed a major home renovation, the owners of this Perth property decided their rear garden to bring it up to the same high standard of the house. To achieve this, they sought the design expertise of Nic Russell and Ryan Pontifex from Landscapes WA.

“They wanted their backyard to have the ‘wow’ factor so that family and friends would be enticed outside. They also wanted a variety of different garden areas to enjoy

and to create interest in the garden without increasing the amount of time needed to maintain it,” says Nic.

Of contemporary design, all areas of the newly renovated rear garden have a wonderful feeling of warmth thanks to the generous use of natural materials. This encompasses the travertine stone paving, the natural stone wall cladding and the timber decking, all of which are offset by a lush and leafy palette of plants.

A water feature is the focal point of the new design and draws the eye whether you’re enjoying the covered comfort of the deck or you’re looking out from the home. This emphasis on water adds to the feeling of being embraced by nature when the family gathers on the deck for a leisurely meal and the fact that the multi-level feature includes a koi pond only adds to the experience.

Another feature of the rear garden is the “sunken” conversation area. This space, which is step down from



the deck, incorporates built-in benches, an ethanol-fuelled fire pit and silver travertine pavers laid in a random French pattern. The same travertine was used in the outdoor kitchen area on the other side of the deck and to create an informal stepping stone path that leads along the side of the house from the washed aggregate path in the front garden to the rear conversation nook.

“We wanted retain a certain amount of privacy so we used some taller screening plants around the boundary such as *Magnolia* ‘Teddy Bear’, Manchurian pear and *Camellia sasanqua*,” says Nic. “As features, we used trees such as the Chinese tallow and crepe myrtle and for shade we planted a Chinese elm in the sunken conversation area.

“It was a wonderful project with perfect clients who were a dream to work with,” he adds. “We have been back many times to share a drink and enjoy the garden – and we hope to do so for many more years.” ■