

The transformation of this Wembley garden is so complete that the owners are now addicted to the outdoor life, reports **Ann McRae**



The striking sapphire blue pool and the modern alfresco area stand out as the highlights of the backyard makeover in this home in Wembley.



The convenient outdoor shower near the corner of the pool.

Makeover reforms backyard nightmare



There was at least one happy family in Wembley during the current hot weather as they enjoyed their new family pool and outdoor area. Alex and Nick McAuliffe bought an old Wembley cottage three years ago and discovered the joys and woes of managing their own home renovation. "When it came to the backyard, we just did not have the time or energy left so we called in some designers and landscapers to help," Ms McAuliffe said. "We had not been able to entertain for two years because of the state of the back garden, which had a sloping surface and degraded structures and plants."

Sam Keats, from Living Environs, took on the \$150,000 contract which would transform the outdoors so completely that the family of four are now addicted to the outdoor life. The big back area was terraced and tonnes of soil removed to allow the new

swimming pool to be at the same level as the big alfresco area. Glass fencing between the alfresco area and the pool gives clear lines of sight while other fencing adds interest and colour around the pool. There are brightly coloured timber panels at the far end set above limestone retaining walls, stained timber panels down a boundary wall to cover an old dividing fence and steel fencing between the pool and the new lawn on a higher level. Leisure Pools were brought in for the pool, which features the Elegance pool design in sapphire blue measuring 7m x 3.9m with 90deg. corners and an underwater safety ledge. Retained garden beds around the pool and backyard fence lines are now planted with big yuccas, star jasmine, cottonwood hibiscus, dianella and giant liriope. Reticulation and garden lighting was also included. A stained timber box seat is at the back of the pool area to store

pool toys and conceal the Daisy cover. There are underwater lights in the pool, an underwater seat and a Kreepy Sprinter pool cleaner. Poured limestone has been laid around the pool for a non-slip surface and there is a modern outdoor shower with hot and cold water set on a small timber deck. Paved steps lead up from the alfresco area to the new lawn indicating the slope which had to be dealt with to install the pool. There is a stainless-steel barbecue at one side of the alfresco and a woven outdoor setting from the Outdoor Furniture Specialist in Claremont provides the seating. The family also has outdoor beanbags for use in and out of the pool water. The family clothes line, a storage shed and gardening equipment as well as the Hurlcon pool equipment are all concealed behind the timber panel fence.



According to the owners, an unexpected benefit of the new outdoor area is that the inside of their home stays much cleaner as the family spends all their spare time outside. "I wanted the outdoors to be bright with lots of personality and that is exactly what we got," Mrs McAuliffe said. "It was also helpful to be able to see a 3-D version of the finished project before we agreed to start."

The big contract was completed in 16 weeks and every plan and problem was managed by Living Environs.

Contact details: Sam Keats at Living Environs on 9384 9672.

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The overgrown and desolate backyard before the start of the project.