designer landscapes

Urban oasis

Offering the ultimate indoor-outdoor living experience, this is a dream garden

A well-designed garden sends a siren call, luring you outside in any weather. It has vitality, individuality and a genuine sense of place.

This stunning garden, expertly designed by Jamie Durie's team at PATIO Landscape Architecture & Design and meticulously built by Landart Landscapes, bears these hallmarks — and more.

Offering a contemporary take on a French provincial theme, the garden was designed to complement a recent home extension. One of the major constraints the design team faced was how to resolve the level change between the new addition and the existing garden. When standing inside the house looking out to the garden, the view was obstructed by retaining walls and steps. The existing pool was also awkwardly oriented, preventing a seamless transition between outdoor living spaces.

The solution was to lower the garden area and use the pool — and a glass highlight within it — to draw the eye to the rear of the garden. The raised pool and highlight window now function as a focal point that can be enjoyed whether relaxing in the garden or looking out from the house, especially when lit at night.

To add to the family's enjoyment of their new outdoor living environment there is a pool pavilion with an outdoor kitchen and contemporary outdoor sofa, a level, multi-use, lawn terrace and a profusion of flowers and foliage to stimulate the senses and please the eye.

Plant selection and placement were integral to the success of this garden. The goal was to develop a palette of plant species that would reinforce the French provincial theme and contribute seasonal floral colour and interesting foliage form year-round.

Constructed by:
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While the planting list is too extensive to repeat in full, it includes two types of magnolia tree (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem' and *Magnolia denudata*) and a wide selection of shrubs, ranging from azaleas, Sasanqua camellias and gardenia to Japanese box, lilly pilly and Viburnum.

To add to the feeling of abundance, there is a variety of groundcovers and climbers including Snowball agapanthus, lilly turf and star jasmine.

A pure-white Australian sandstone is used for the paved areas and creates a light, open feeling that perfectly offsets the vivid blue of the pool water and the rich green of the lawn and flourishing plant life. It also serves to blur the boundaries between indoor and outdoor living areas so that when the folding glass doors at the rear of the home are folded back it is hard to tell where one beautifully designed space begins and the other ends.

Of course, the success of such an impressive project rests not simply with good design, but with excellent construction. Landart Landscapes handled every challenge that came their way with skill, precision and efficiency, from resolving the level changes to removing the side bathroom to allow access for the excavation machinery and Bobcats.

By working in close cooperation with one another, as well as with the owners, PATIO Landscape Architecture & Design and Landart Landscapes have created the ultimate outdoor living experience.