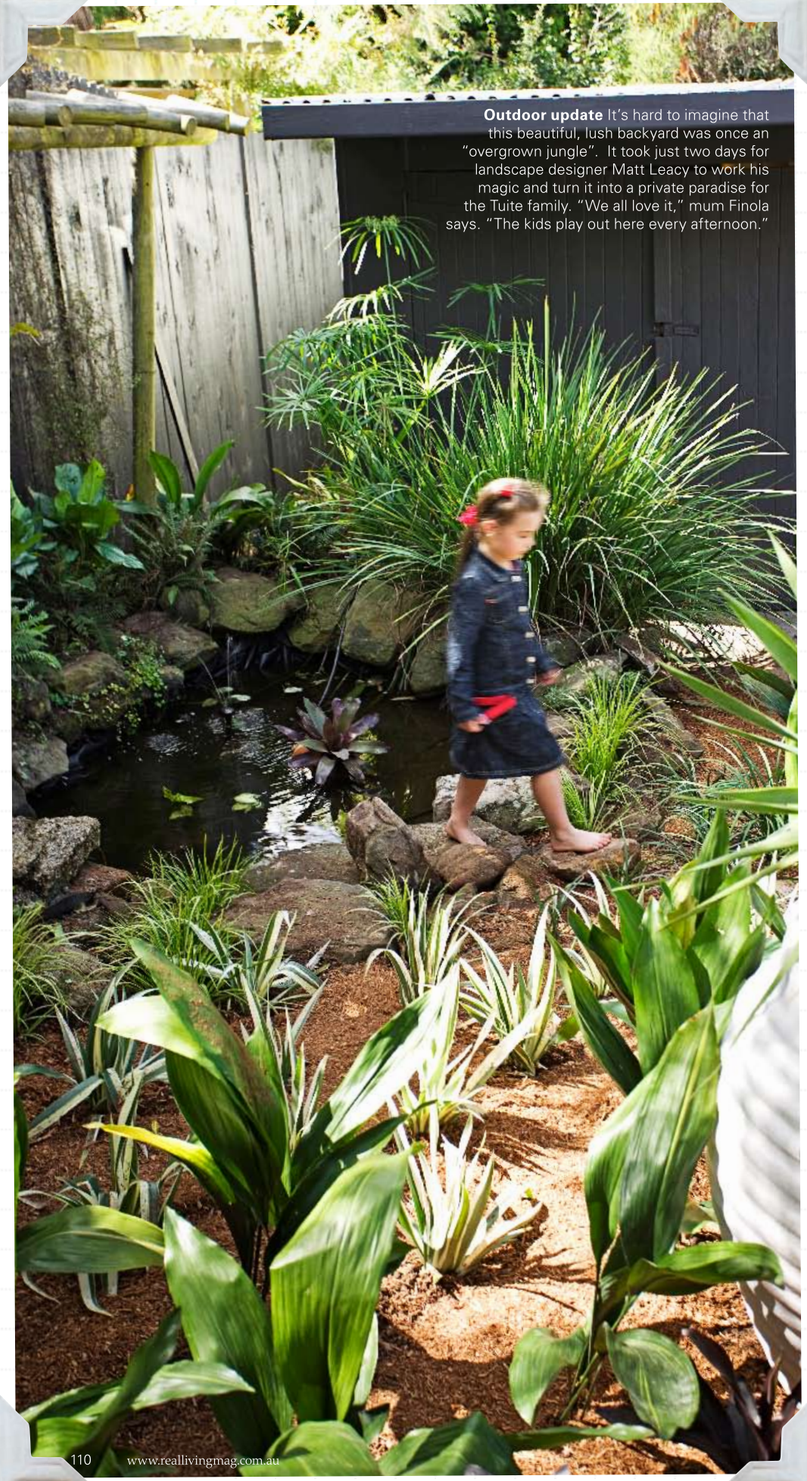

Outdoor update It's hard to imagine that this beautiful, lush backyard was once an "overgrown jungle". It took just two days for landscape designer Matt Leacy to work his magic and turn it into a private paradise for the Tuite family. "We all love it," mum Finola says. "The kids play out here every afternoon."

IF YOU'VE ever laboured through a renovation you'll know just how disruptive major home repairs can be. So wouldn't it be great if a team of experts turned up on your doorstep to do all the hard work for you – and in just two days! Sounds too good to be true, right? Wrong! That's exactly what happened to two lucky families when they became the subjects of Channel Nine's new lifestyle show, *Domestic Blitz!* We caught up with them to find out how their homes and gardens were transformed in just one weekend.

REAL HOME #1
THE TUITES

The home A four-bedroom detached fibro bungalow in Ermington, NSW.
Meet the family Finola, husband James and their two daughters, nine-year-old Alexandria, and Nikita, six years.
The experts Interior designer Romaine Alwill (romaine@alwill.com.au), and landscape designer Matt Leacy of Landart Landscapes (landart.com.au).
The makeover The Tuites needed an environment that was not only easy to maintain but easy to live in. The transformation inside was stunning but so too was the backyard makeover: from overgrown to gorgeous. Bifold doors have also changed the way the Tuites live. Prior to the reno one sliding door was all that divided the living area and the backyard, but with the installation of the folding doors – which run the length of the lounge – the house has really opened up.
Action plan **Day 1** • Old furniture and rubbish removed. • Work begins in backyard. • Kitchen installed. • Interior walls prepped and painted. • Doors fitted. **Day 2** • Pond, turf and plants arrive. • Interior design team get to work. • Finishing touches made inside. • Tuites arrive home!
The verdict Finola says the show's host Shelley Craft summed it up well when she said the bifold doors "changed the heart of the home". "It's so true!" she adds. "I love that I can relax inside with a cuppa watching TV while keeping an eye on the kids outside. We really couldn't be happier." →

THE BACKYARD HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM UNMANAGEABLE JUNGLE TO GARDEN OASIS

timber decking = new outdoor "room" to relax & entertain

All decked out Clever use of timber decking has resulted in a great outdoor dining area for the family. It's solved the issue of the sloping garden, too. "The garden was a bit of a jungle before," Finola explains. "There were overgrown vines everywhere, and because it's positioned on a sloping block, maintaining it was a nightmare."

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP Children's Mini Mia **table** in White, $99, and **chairs** in Blue, $39 each, Freedom. **BOTTOM LEFT** Ikon 2-seat **sofas** in Chalk, $999 each, and Congo **fruit basket** (on table), $29.95, Freedom. Barbados **pendants** in Wengee Cane, $79.95 for small, $99.95 for large, Beacon Lighting. Godfrey Hirst "Nuovo" **carpet** (ordered as rug), details as before. *For stockists, see page 160.*

REAL HOME #2 THE SHAWS

The home A four-bedroom, two-bathroom weatherboard cottage in Panania, NSW.

Meet the family Kellie and her husband Ben were no strangers to renovation but the big plans they had for their home were put on hold when daughters Chloe, now three, and Jenna, 11 months, came along.

The experts Interior designer Romaine Alwill, and landscape designer Matt Leacy of Landart Landscapes.

The makeover The entire layout of the Shaw home was changed. The living area was shifted so the house flowed better; walls were transformed with a pale blue paint, and dark timber-toned finishes create a relaxed and fuss-free environment perfect for a young family like the Shaws.

The backyard was also completely overhauled and a sandpit and deck were installed. Kellie says one of the biggest changes is the safety aspect in the garden. "Before the makeover I was always worried about the back step and other unsafe areas, but now the girls can play in safety and comfort," she says.

Action plan **Day 1** Plans drawn up with the Shaws. • Removalists take away old furniture. • Backyard landscaped and deck installed. • Internal walls prepped and undercoated. • New kitchen fitted.

Day 2 Walls painted inside and out. • Garden team get to work. • New furniture arrives. • Interior team start styling. • Final clear-up in backyard. • The Shaws get a surprise!

The verdict Self-confessed control freak Kellie admits it was hard to just hand over her home to the team but says they did a "fantastic" job. "The result was exactly what we wanted," she says. "We are just so happy and Chloe always talks about the day the camera people came and made her house white!" she laughs.

Colour connection The hit of blue in the furniture and furnishings is picked up in the painted fence outside, creating a fluid feeling that makes the garden seem like an extra "room" of the house.

Beautiful in blue A palette of blue and white has turned a drab interior into a space that's light and airy. The new-look beachy theme suits the style of the weatherboard home perfectly.

Backyard bliss A fresh lick of paint and new bifold doors create a bright exterior that sets off the new garden beautifully.