



Sense of adventure

The owners of this Brisbane property wanted an exciting garden design ... and they got it

THE HOUSE, WHICH SITS ON A SLOPING BLOCK, had been a typical post-war dwelling before it was bought by a builder and tastefully renovated. It is now very modern with an exterior boasting a mix of weatherboard, rendered block, glass and fibre cement sheeting. As part of the renovation, a smallish concrete swimming pool was built at the rear of the home. This stands 1.2m out of the ground. The brief from the homeowners to Aaron Worth of Utopia Landscape Design was "do something exciting".

Their wish list included a sense of seclusion and interesting visual elements throughout. It was decided that the interesting visuals would be driven by the use of various materials, such as the laser-cut resin panels

from Axolotl. These have a white acrylic backing and were treated with a bronze/graphite coating.

In the rear garden, grey granite pavers are surrounded by pebbles and in one section, Corten rusted steel edging. Contrasting the paving and picking up on the warmth of the timber decking, the garden boasts a colourful planting palette. Plant species include native gardenia trees, *Croton 'Mammy'*, *Liriope muscari* 'Evergreen Giant', *Cordyline 'Negra'*, variegated Chinese star jasmine and variegated dwarf mondo grass.

Perhaps the most radical element of the outdoor design was the decision to cut the side out of the existing pool and install a window! Apart from the feature that it creates, the decision was also about

lengthening the view from the lounge room beyond the pool wall. By doing this, it gives the impression of greater space.

The owners are very proud of their new landscape and enjoy it every day. The judges of the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers 2013 Landscape Design Awards seemed to be equally impressed, with the project taking out gold in the Residential \$150,000 category.

Project details

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