



THE URBANE, PARED-BACK DESIGN OF THIS contemporary landscape fits hand in glove with the minimalist architecture of the home and its distinctly modern interiors.

Designed by Steve Taylor of COS Design, the clean, crisp landscape features sleek, uncluttered lines and a restrained modern palette of colours and materials. The result is a series of open and airy spaces and a seamless interior-external transition.

"The homeowner wanted us to soften the look of the large, imposing home and create a modern garden that would have impact, be aesthetically appealing and have a high level of functionality," explains Steve. "The home and pool house clashed a little architecturally, so the garden had to be sympathetic to both. Also, a tranquil courtyard was required as a parent's retreat and a new front garden design that would have masses of street appeal."

"The front is a modern interpretation of a formal style whereas the courtyard and area around the swimming pool have an edgier design to complement the modern look of the pool house and the interior design of the home," adds Steve.

Every element within each outdoor space was chosen — and positioned — with great care. The Sphere sculpture from Lump Sculpture Studio, a contemporary creation of Corten and stainless steel, sits where it can be enjoyed from the pool house or when looking out from inside the home. Equal care was taken to make optimum use of the space in the



Utterly urbane

Polished, sophisticated and timeless, this contemporary design is truly one of a kind



parents' courtyard — from the “floating” cantilevered timber bench to the Lump 3D Sahara water wall.

“It was imperative that every element be impeccably balanced and in perfect proportion to the house. Every structure and feature had to complement the home, both inside and out,” says Steve.

The materials used are of the highest quality and include custom-sized honed bluestone paving with drop-down coping and feature bluestone cobbles, all of which were supplied by Better Exteriors. Bluestone is an enduring stone with impressive slip- and scratch-resistance, making it ideal for around pools and entertaining areas.

The planting scheme features interesting foliage and plants one normally associates with Asiatic-style landscapes, adding to the feeling of tranquillity. There are feature plantings of Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum* ‘Senkaki’) and ornamental pears (*Pyrus calleryana* ‘Capital’) and the repeated use of bamboo. Three different varieties of bamboo, all supplied by Red Cloud Bamboo, were used. Slender weavers bamboo was used for architectural screening, Himalayan weeping bamboo for wispiest screening and black bamboo in pots for height and to soften the hard edges of the built landscape. Completing the picture are groundcovers of black mondo grass and dwarf mondo grass.

To create this stunning landscape, Steve Taylor of COS Design managed a total of eight different contractor companies; however, the main construction credit belongs to the team at SJM Landscaping.



Project details

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