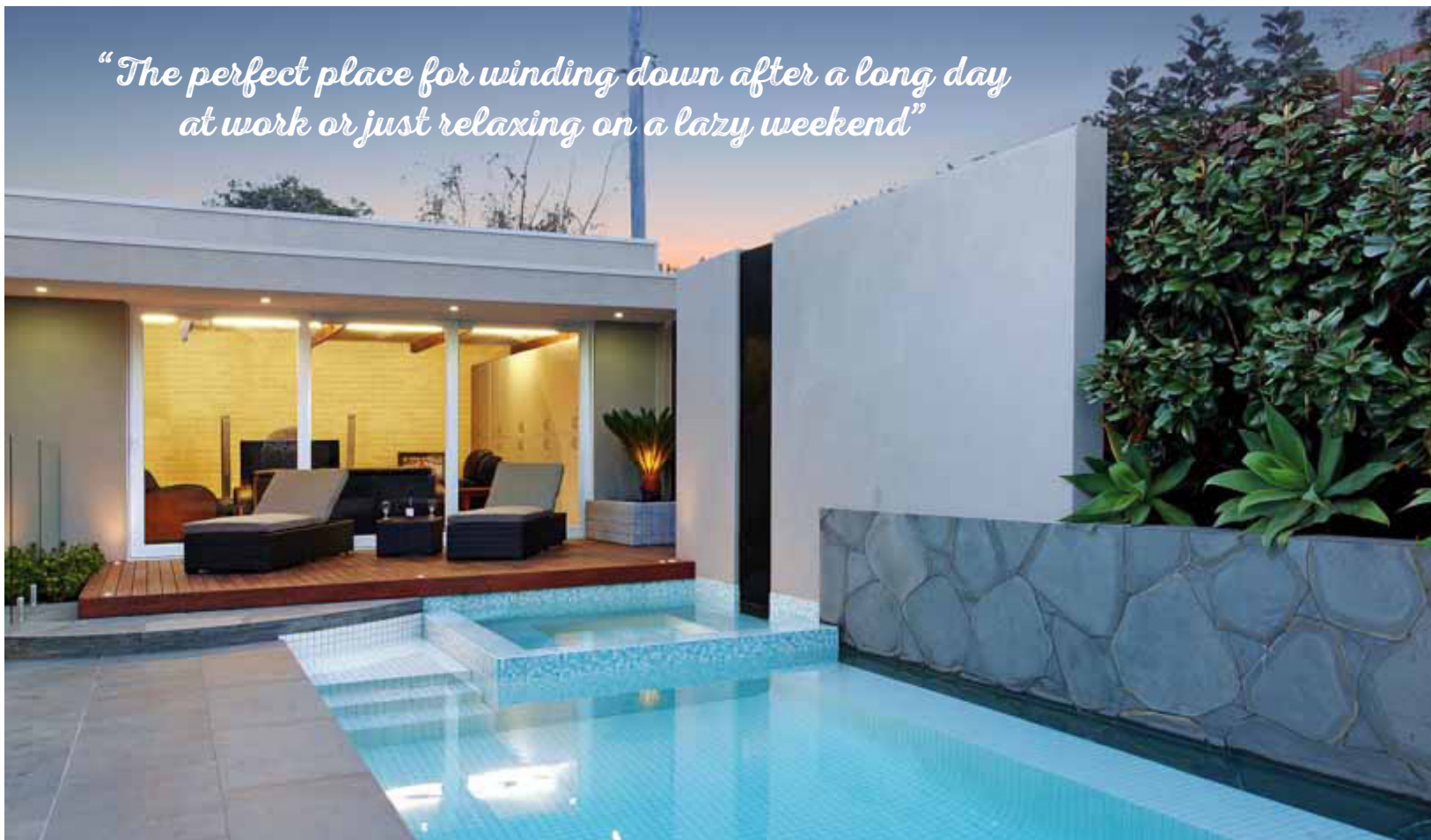


A stunning artwork flanked by striking foliage draws the eye to the far end of the swimming pool.

HOLIDAY HAVEN

From rundown backyard to resort-style outdoor oasis, this garden has been totally transformed

“The perfect place for winding down after a long day at work or just relaxing on a lazy weekend”



WORDS: RACHEL FALZON
PHOTOS: TIM TURNER

When you have all the luxuries of a resort available to you just by stepping through your own back door, there's little reason to go away on holiday. Such has become the lifestyle of the lucky owners of this striking Melbourne property designed by Steve Taylor of COS Design.

The owners wanted to maximise every square metre of their tight rear garden and create a boutique, resort-style relaxation and entertaining zone that would be both luxurious and practical. A swimming pool and spa, along with an outdoor room, were also high on their wish list.

The addition of the outdoor room has added value to the property as well as the owners' lifestyle. Offering every convenience of an indoor kitchen — a sink, plenty of bench space and storage, a barbecue, a rangehood and even a fridge — this zone is well equipped to tackle family lunches or evening parties.

A louvred roof gives the space the protection and flexibility it needs and creates an area that can be used year-round. The louvres can be adjusted to let light and air flow through, or closed to keep inclement weather at bay.

Just a few steps away is the swimming pool with its integrated spa. Here, bluestone paving, glass mosaic spa tiles, ceramic pool tiles and the surrounding greenery combine to provide a clean, modern look, warmed by the timber decking. As the living area inside the house looks over the pool, the owners chose frameless glass fencing.

A contemporary metal sculpture at the opposite end of the pool is a focal point for

those sitting in the spa. Behind the space, the decking provides a casual spot to enjoy a light meal or glass of wine, making it the perfect place for winding down after a long day at work or just relaxing on a lazy weekend.

Plants were carefully selected for their water-wise properties. With a nod to sustainability, a new 10,000-litre water tank links up with a drip irrigation system to keep the plants looking their best without having to rely on the mains water supply.

Lighting has been installed thoughtfully to ensure the outdoor living area can be enjoyed at night. There are lights that shine directly

TOP The perfectly positioned spa provides relaxation at the end of a busy day or hectic working week.
BELOW The custom-built outdoor kitchen is equipped with storage, a fridge, a sink and a barbecue.

into the pool, downlights in the walkway alongside the living area and more lights within the decking, so people can safely navigate from one area to another. Uplighting to feature plants and the shimmering sculpture provides pleasing focal points. There's also lighting within the pool to ensure the owners can make good use of the pool on balmy summer nights.



DESIGNER GARDENS

A highlight of the makeover was a new outdoor room with a kitchen area and space for dining.



Ceramic tiles were used to clad the interior of the pool and glass mosaic tiles for the spa.