



CREATIVE OUTDOOR SOLUTIONS

## A CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC

EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN

Creative Outdoor Solutions were approached by the clients of this featured project for the second time, as they had recently sold their larger scale family home which Creative Outdoor Solutions had designed and landscaped years prior.

With a down-sized, more modern contemporary home which left very little space for a garden, Creative Outdoor Solutions' approach and design principles needed to suit the new architecture and internal décor of the home. With all small spaces, it is important not to over-design.

Although small, available space for design bears no relevance on the ease of the design process – on the contrary it complicates it and makes the process more difficult, as every square metre counts. Every decision in relation to proportions, scale, functional requirements, décor and planting became all the more critical in this tight space, as these elements are all intensified.



Faced with an imposing large garage backdrop in the rear courtyard, Creative Outdoor Solutions had a design challenge on their hands. They needed to soften and minimise the focus of the garage structure within the small rear space. To achieve this, lateral features were created to draw the focus away from the rear wall and to the sides of the courtyard.

A large, uncluttered, open bluestone paved surface remained untouched and a custom three tiered water feature (reflection pond) was created to the northern side of the courtyard. The added water wall gives the water movement, height and structure, as well as creating a very subtle calming sound to the space.

The random clad bluestone plinth creates a mirror-like finish, providing stunning reflective qualities of the teddy bear magnolias (that line both of the courtyard boundaries). The lower pond, with its floating stepping stones, cools the courtyard and gives the feature scale a presence within the space.

Contrasting the rendered wall, a raised planter box featuring stunning plants such as the espalliered lemon and black mondo softens the rear vista, while bringing living sculpture to the feature



On the southern side of the courtyard, a custom bluestone cantilevered bench seat was created to house and highlight the LED lighting and the rustic timber used to stoke the classic lined Lump fire bowl. This lounge setup is enhanced by backing rusted corten Aludean Edna screens. In addition, an Entanglements light box adds art to the blank rear wall.

A simplistic hedge of 'Bush Christmas' lilly pilly helps layer the lounge area, while large format bluestone steppers, surrounded by dwarf mondo, provide functional flooring while softening the space.

A Japanese maple under-planted with gardenias, gives the garden height, form and fragrance, while the barbecue, protected from above with horizontal matching Aludean Edna screens, is positioned opposite the kitchen window for ease of alfresco cooking.

Cliveas in the foreground of the space enjoy the shade created by the home and provide lush foliage with stunning floral displays. The narrow northern light, well off the formal rooms of the residence, also created difficult challenges from a design perspective.



#### CONTACT

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Photographer: Tim Turner

An imposing home renovation was being undertaken on the neighbouring boundary, minimising light and the feeling of privacy, so a central façade was created featuring an Entanglements bubble candelabra and flanked by the repeated Aludean Edna screens.

Two random bluestone clad planters feature the sculptural cycads, once again under-planted with black mondo. In conjunction to the eye-catching plants, a large bluestone bench seat offers the space functionality. These elements all combine to help draw the eye away from the rear imposing extension.

The front yard was also kept simple with a raised planter featuring a cycad palm in a shallow urn that frames the stunning Lump pendant sculpture to the south. Other types of planting in this project include street lined ornamental pears, a gardenia hedge offering clean structured living, as well as buxus spheres which frame the pillars of the home and complement the clean, classic and contemporary feel of the property.

Projects of this quality and style don't just happen – they are only created through a highly creative, professional thorough design and construction process. Steve and the team at Creative Outdoor Solutions offer these services to the highest level with their work being awarded multiple state and national awards.