

Tiered triumph

A classic garden receives a contemporary twist



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This large family residence on Sydney's north shore has seen many wonderful celebrations — from grand parties to low-key events. To honour this grand home, its classic garden received a contemporary makeover, with subtle tiers cut into its existing slopes. Full of repetition and symmetry, this ornamental garden now sits nicely among the north shore street frontages, its rear more relaxed and playful.

"The main driver for the garden was to facilitate a large family with a love for entertaining, as well as an appropriate space for lots of young grandchildren," says Trystan Graham, director of Outdoor Establishments. The design of the garden is timeless, with clean lines and an uncomplicated colour palette ensuring the formal and relaxed garden elements blend seamlessly.

As the site has a significant slope, the Outdoor Establishments team worked in terraced levels which spatially defined the garden. The front yard, swimming pool, rear lawn and alfresco area were all arranged in the split-level design. "With the difference between the formal elements from the front garden to the [relaxed] back, it was great to work on the transition between two garden styles in the one property," says Trystan.

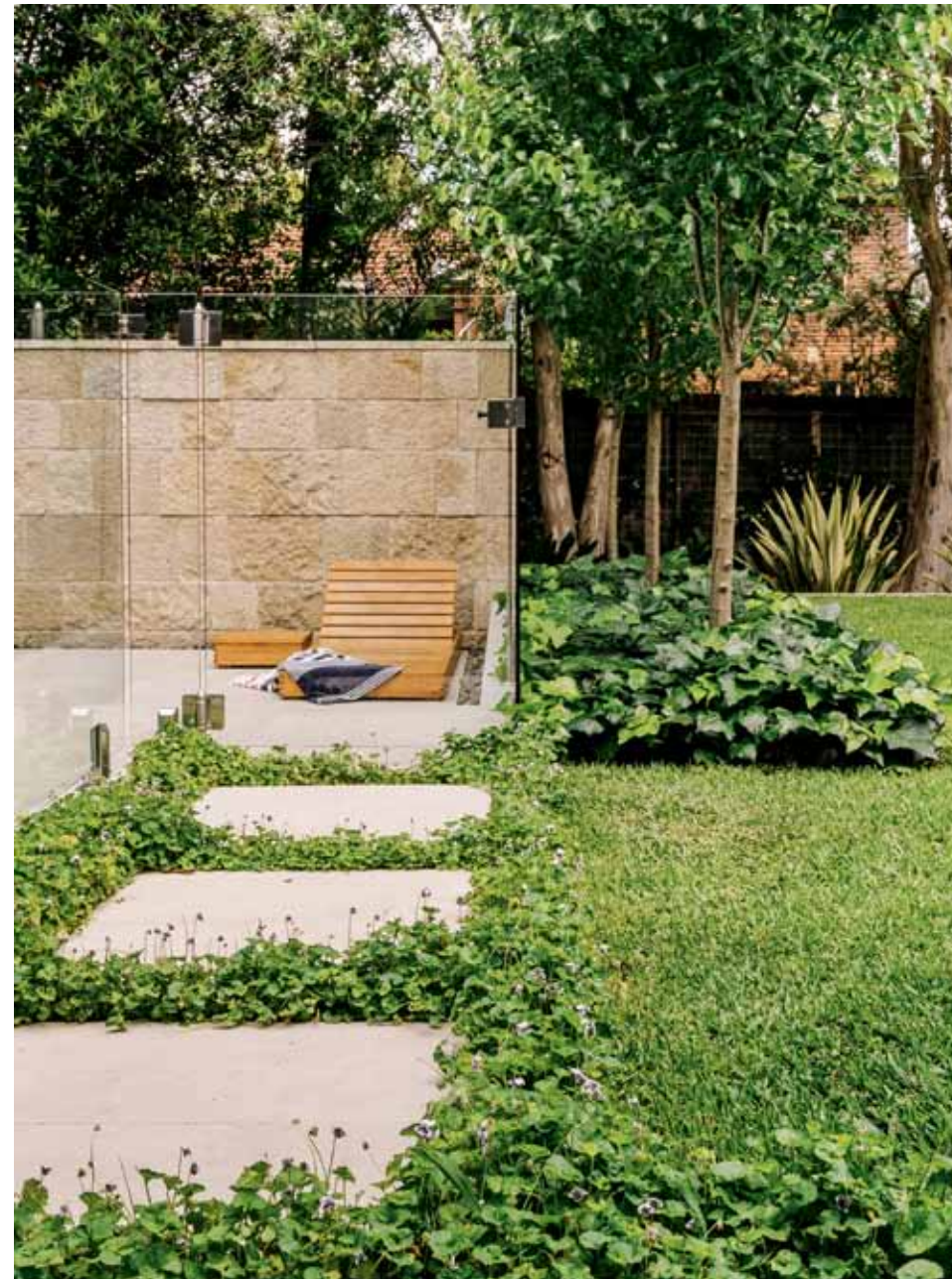
The dark tones in the granite paving, from Gather Co Australia, blended neatly into the home's exterior and provided a durable high-traffic area for the front garden. Around the back, limestone pavement from Eco Outdoor matched the home's traditional look and worked well around the swimming pool.



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TRYSTAN GRAHAM



“Sydney sandstone is traditionally used in many north shore gardens, but it does not perform well around swimming pools,” says Trystan. “The choice of limestone was to maintain that traditional aesthetic without compromising on performance.”

Classic plantings of Ornamental Pears; *Viburnum*; *Buxus sempervirens*, Common Box; and *Hedera helix*, English Ivy, are beautifully offset with more architectural species of *Bromeliad*, *Furcraea* and *Agave*. A herb garden, placed in the sunny corner of the property, provides the opportunity for further owner engagement in the garden.

Other sustainable garden additions include large water tanks concealed below the back lawn; waterwise exotics planted where possible; rainwater harvesting used for irrigation; and the pool is run on an automated system by Pooled Energy to help it perform more efficiently, using less power. The existing drainage easement in the backyard was also considered in the garden's initial design.

“As a garden designer, we are there to take in ideas, brief and budgets and turn that into something tangible for them. A good working relationship with our clients is the key to a successful project,” says Trystan.



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The varied selection of pot plants

Limestone and sandstone walling by Eco Outdoor match the home's traditional north shore aesthetic and provide a beautiful contrast to its leafy surrounds. This was both a cost and design-driven decision by the team.

"My favourite spot is the large alfresco area off the back of the house that leads down to the lawn and pool. I love the abundance of space to engage with our family (this home belongs to my in-laws) and friends and play with my young nieces and nephews," says Trystan. "I personally loved working with my in-laws as clients, alongside the builder, Nathan Jones from Nest Building, who is my brother-in-law. This isn't something many people get the chance to do and I am very grateful for it."

With sections for both entertaining and relaxing with the family, this stunning classic-meets-contemporary garden will be seeing many more celebrations in its future. "With the number of parties and events that happen here, whether it's 15 or 150 people, we have been amazed by the performance of the space, which always looks fresh the next day," says Trystan. outdoorestablishments.com