

# A timeless marvel

This heritage home received a green modern makeover

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**T**his Canterbury house alone is a knockout, with its intricate heritage features and quaint, white weatherboard cladding. However, after Ian Barker Gardens took charge of its surrounding garden, it has become a vibrant, majestic delight. Featuring a modern poolside entertaining space, a verdant entryway and Japanese maple canopy, the residence now commands roadside attention.

"The active family of four asked us to transform their tired front, side and rear gardens into areas that shone," says Ian Barker from Ian Barker Gardens. "In keeping with the flavour of their heritage home, it was crucial that the garden design be classic and timeless, with a contemporary edge."

Ian and his team cleverly combined cottage and modern garden styles to create a lush, green garden, fit for the home's stately Victorian facade. The style of the front entrance leans more to the cottage garden aesthetic, with 6m *Acer palmatum*, Japanese Maples, providing a clear and defined front yard. "Repositioning the 6m-high maples allowed us to create a simple, lush canopy, which gave our clients the clearly defined, direct access to the home they were after," says Ian. "The sheer stature and maturity of these trees make this front garden a showstopper."

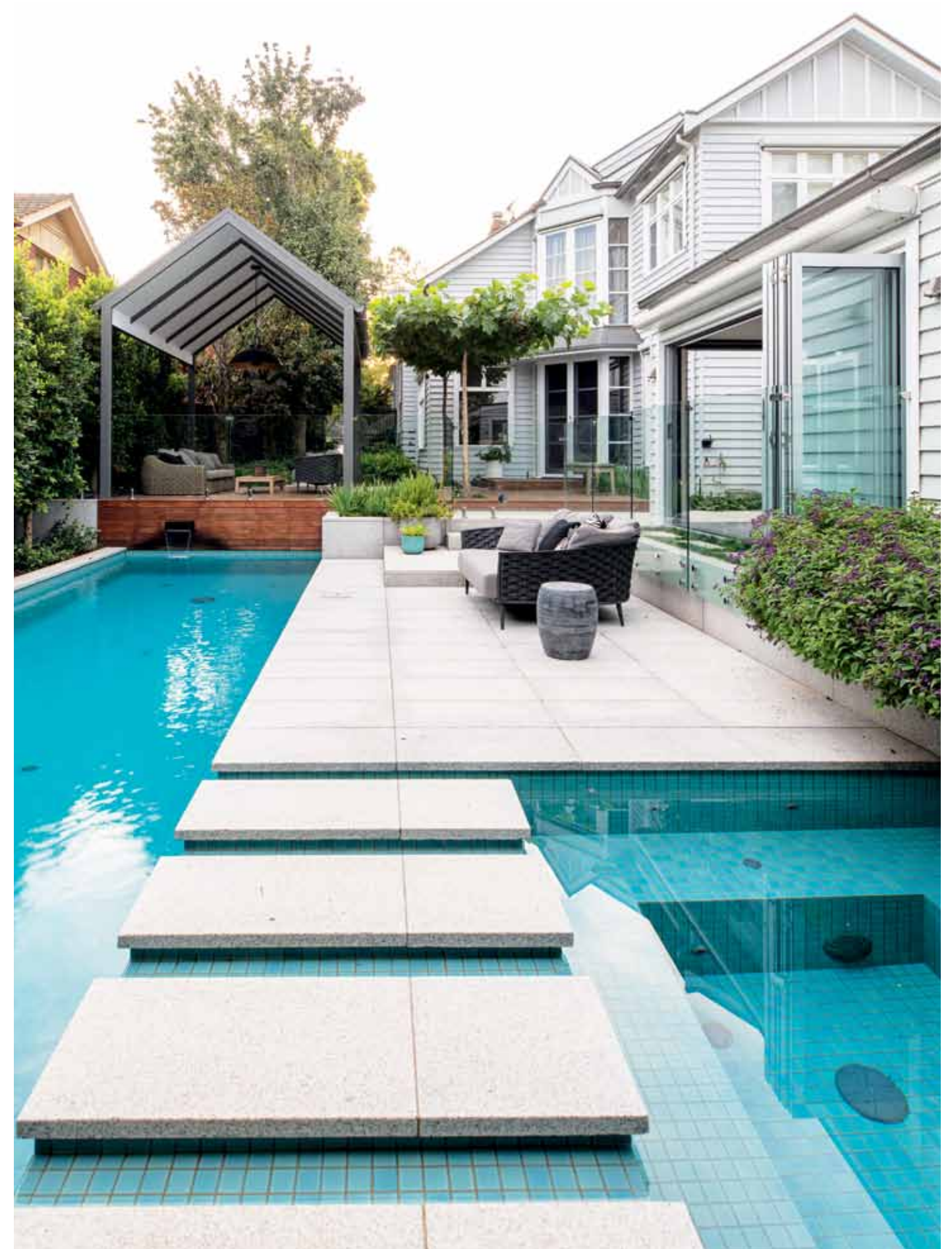




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IAN BARKER





WE LOVE  
The "living pergola"  
in the courtyard

Transplanting these monster-sized trees didn't come without challenges. Ian and his team worked with Established Tree Transplanters to safely relocate them. By using high-pressure water jets to cut around the tree roots cleanly, they significantly reduced the shock to the trees. "With this technique, the chances of success increased to 98 per cent," says Ian. "To further increase our chances, we chose to carry out the transplant when the weather was cooler and before the leaves turned."

Flamed 'Smokey Grey' granite was used for the paving, edging and steppers, with 'Bokhara' exposed aggregate concrete in the driveway and wide Filetti 'Endicott' inlay between the pavers travelling down the side of the garden. This created beautiful structure and warmth and linked the front traditional garden to the rear.

Around the rear of the home, the garden becomes more modern and contemporary, with lush, green plants offsetting the hard lines of the pool and pool house area, creating a garden that can be used throughout the change in seasons.

The planting palette is simple and understated. *Asplenium bulbiferum*, Hen and Chickens Fern; *Liriope muscari* 'Royal Purple', Lily Turf; *Daphne* 'Eternal Fragrance'; *Buxus sempervirens*, Common Box spheres, *Pyrus nivalis*, Snow Pear; and *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*, Boston Ivy, were planted among older, established trees.





A living pergola was cleverly created across the courtyard using the deciduous *Plantanus orientalis*, Oriental Plane.

"Our preference is always to keep or reuse existing plants wherever possible," says Ian. "They put their trust in [our] judgement to uproot and transplant 20-plus-year-old trees to other areas of the garden. We also brought in an extraordinary 8m-high, 2000L root ball *Magnolia grandiflora*, Southern Magnolia tree, and positioned it on the adjoining fence line to provide necessary privacy from the neighbouring property."

Travelling between the home's classic front garden to the beautiful, contemporary backyard and pool entertaining space is a dream. With gorgeous shade coming from both the Japanese maples and the southern magnolia, entertaining in this rich, green space will be a joy all year round.

"Our favourite part of the space would have to be the Japanese maples in the front garden," says Ian. "We take such pleasure in watching our gardens grow — and this project is certainly no exception. We are absolutely thrilled with how it's progressing and are so grateful to our clients for trusting it. It's a garden that we hope will bring them years and years of joy and tranquillity." [landscape.net.au](http://landscape.net.au)

