



One of a kind

Unique in design, these arresting front and rear gardens are sure to impress

BOASTING A HEADY MIX OF NATIVE PLANTS AND AN APPEALING BLEND OF natural materials, both front and rear gardens have a distinctive look that sets them apart yet is still sympathetic to the architecture of the newly built home. Designed by Anth Jonstone and built by the Johnstone Designs construction team, each garden is special in its own right. In the front garden, the first thing that catches the eye is the broad sweep of the lawn and the unique curved retaining wall. This helps to soften the look of the two-story house and settle it into the wider landscape.

Leading from the lawn and past the house to the rear garden is a stepping stone path which delivers you to the merbau deck at the back. Johnstone Designs extended this deck and added a small pergola for year-round protection. “From the comfort of the deck you have a clear view of the swimming pool and adjacent seating area. The focal point of this area is the suspended granite seat, beneath which logs are stored. These logs add to the interplay of textures – and they provide fuel for the fire bowl,” says Anth. Both the seating and pool areas are paved in granite. For the main body of paving, 600mm x 300mm pavers were used; for the border around the crazy paved fire pit nook, 500mm x 500mm pavers. This gives the impression of two different spaces that could be used on their own or together. “Plantation timbers were used for all timber work, including the screen behind the rear garden seating area and the façade of the curved brick retaining wall in the front garden,” says Anth. “To further enhance the





sustainability of the design, I chose water-wise plants, relying on a mainly native theme with a few exotics added for contrast.”

The planting palette includes red kangaroo paws, which are the feature plant used along the base of the curved front wall. A Queensland bottle tree underplanted with Senecio serpens (a grey-blue succulent) was used for the street level pocket and in front of the curved section of blade fencing. Bird of paradise was used as a feature behind the granite seat.

“Although the owners were clear about the direction they wanted to take the garden, it was a privilege to work with people who were prepared to trust in the design process,” says Anth. “The end result is a truly unique and fabulous garden that people will love to come and see and use. It definitely makes this property one of a kind.”

Project details

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