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Entertainer's delight

A luxurious, modern, resort-style garden that's just made for entertaining

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At night, the golden glow of the illuminated gazebo beckons guests past the pool, down a wide set of stairs and into the farthest reaches of the garden. The gazebo, as stunning during the day as it is during the evening hours, is perfectly positioned to command a view of a beautifully paved outdoor dining and barbecue area, an elegant formal fountain and a tranquil Japanese reflection garden. In this modern resort-style garden, designed and built by D-Scapes Landscaping, the focus is clearly on entertaining. The owners are avid entertainers, often hosting large functions, so the newly landscaped grounds needed the flexibility to comfortably cater for a crowd one weekend and a cosier grouping the next. The resort-style gazebo and adjacent barbecue area, complete with stainless-steel appliances, are two of the garden's many stand-out features. Both areas have a look of warmth and sophistication about them, thanks to the use of Koolum Stone feature walling. Natural stone features heavily throughout the project, with Feathertop stone wall panel cladding from Eco Concepts used for the front entry to the home and water features, and Flinders cladding for the rear retaining walls. For added texture, various small-feature retaining walls were clad in pebbles. Sandstone salvaged during demolition of the old garden was put to equally effective use in the form of garden borders and retaining walls. Of course, stone also plays an integral role in the Japanese garden, with its serpentine pattern of

feature rocks, custom-made granite water feature and complementary steppers and seats. Water is an essential element of the overall garden design. There are seven water features in total, all designed and constructed by D-Scapes: three at the front entry, two in the rear garden, one on the private terrace and last but not least, the stack-stone wet edge of the pool.

When building the new landscape, D-Scapes strove to maintain as many of the existing plants as possible, choosing the new plant material to complement the old and to give the garden the desired lush resort ambience. Buxus hedges have been used to section different parts of the garden, while mass plantings of birds of paradise, liriopie, clivia and lavender contribute



colour and coverage. To reference the Japanese garden there are various maples and to provide more colour — as well as ingredients for cooking — there is a citrus grove and a herb garden. Water for irrigation is supplied from a rainwater tank and is delivered via an automatic drip system. To achieve such a spectacular result, D-Scapes had much to contend with. There were stringent council requirements due to the proximity of neighbouring properties and nature reserves and access to the battleaxe box was extremely

tricky, requiring the use of specialised machinery for demolition and construction work and a helicopter to remove a giant old liquidamber from the bottom garden. D-Scapes Landscaping — a family-owned business revolving around Chris Dark and his sons Tim and Tye — was able to draw on its more than 30 years experience, however, and to successfully resolve every challenge and create a garden that is an entertainer's delight. The results speak for themselves.



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