

OUTDOOR KITCHENS

{inspiration}

Eating out

Whether rain or shine, this outdoor space, a stunner for all seasons, has everything to hand for alfresco entertaining

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Come dine with me

Housed under decorative lattice skylights from Lump Sculpture Studio, John and Tina's idyllic outdoor kitchen is a seamless extension of the home's living area and dining area. For continuity, the walls are painted in Haymes 'Harvest Time', while ceilings are in Dulux 'Calf Skin'. "We use it year round for parties and informal meals," says Tina. "John even calls it his alfresco office!" >



Room with a view
The dining area overlooks the tranquil pool and spa zone, bordered by blueberry ash for privacy, frameless-glass fencing and steel 'fins' for stylish safety compliance. The dining setting is by German company Solpuri, available through Xxxxxx.

Built-in benefits
The discreet Electrolux 'EQBL100AS' barbecue is surrounded by Xxxxx xxxcabinetry from Xxxxx, while a Jetmaster 'Heat & Glo XLR' gas fireplace allows dining in the cooler months. "We wanted an elegant ambience and all the amenities at our fingertips," says Tina.



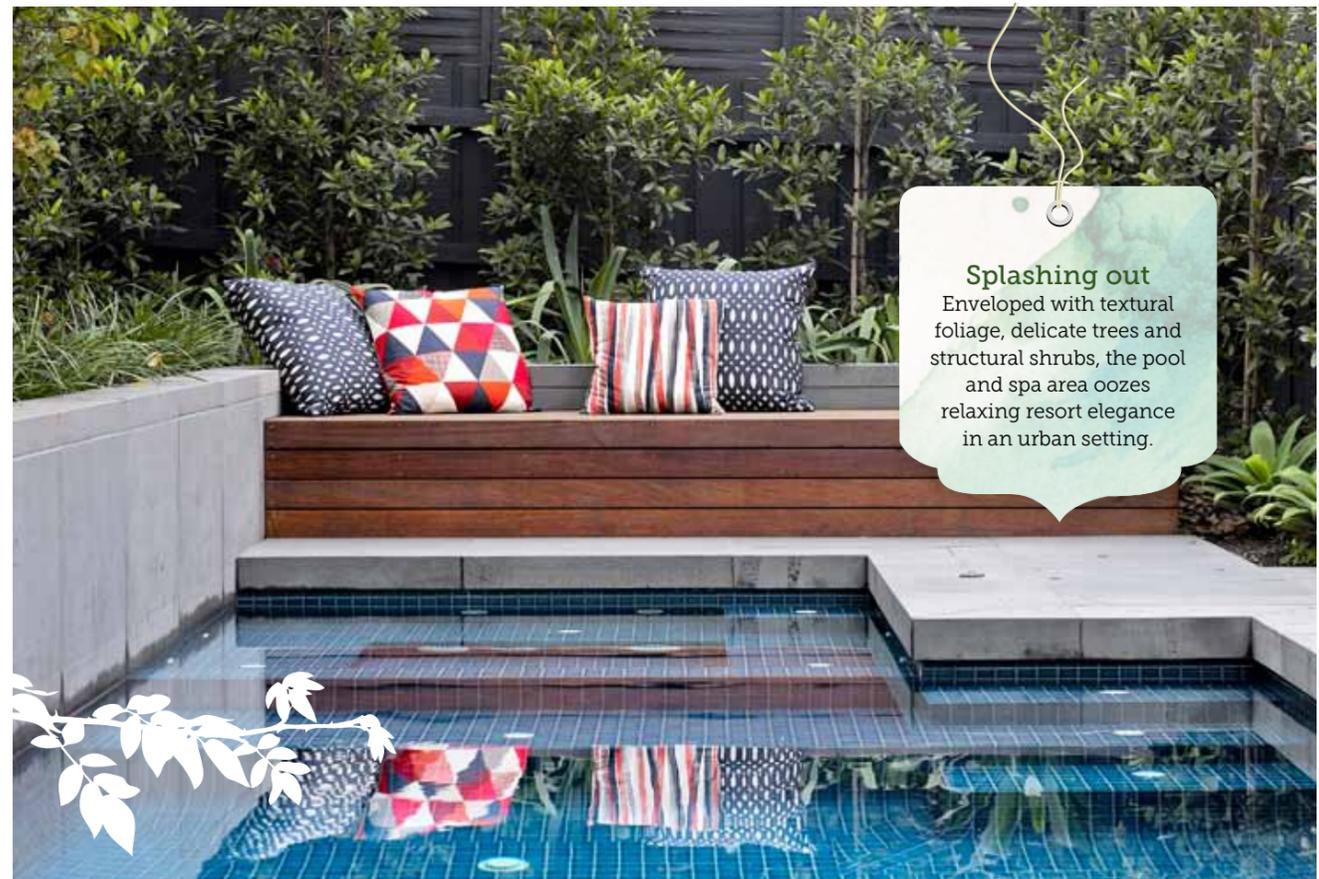
KNOWN FOR ITS 'four seasons in one day' climate, Melbourne's weather can wreak havoc on even the best-laid plans to enjoy the great outdoors, so when avid alfresco diners Tina and John decided to revamp their garden, a covered entertaining area topped their wishlist. Hidden away in one of Melbourne's leafiest suburbs, the low-maintenance space was expertly devised by Mark Browning of Cycas Landscape Design, with help from Tina and John. Small but perfectly formed, it features a spectacular covered dining area, which looks out over a relaxing pool and spa zone, perfect for whatever the weather has in store.

"The garden was bare and uninspiring before Mark got his hands on it," says Tina. "It had an awkward, irregular shape with minimal planting and a small grassed area. We were desperate for a calm, relaxing garden that could be enjoyed all year round."

The crowning glory is the outdoor entertaining room, with integrated barbecue, wine fridge and fireplace. "We incorporated the garden's existing decking area to form the blueprint for the covered dining room," says Tina. "We entertain and eat out here all the time - it's a wonderful room."

To make it light, airy and weatherproof, Mark designed three skylights using Lump Sculpture Studio screens for added decorative appeal. The screens, which flood the space with delicate patterned light, are one of Tina's favourite features.

Keen to maximise the soft planting areas and balance out the hard landscaping, Mark capitalised where he could, digging in an enticing assortment of cycads, agaves, Mexican lillies and a truly striking Dragon's Blood tree. "I like to use plants that don't rely on flowering for beauty so they offer year-round appeal," he says. Privacy was also important, so Mark planted a border foliage



Splashing out
Enveloped with textural foliage, delicate trees and structural shrubs, the pool and spa area oozes relaxing resort elegance in an urban setting.

The pool's highly visible even when not in use, so it had to be a *stunning* feature

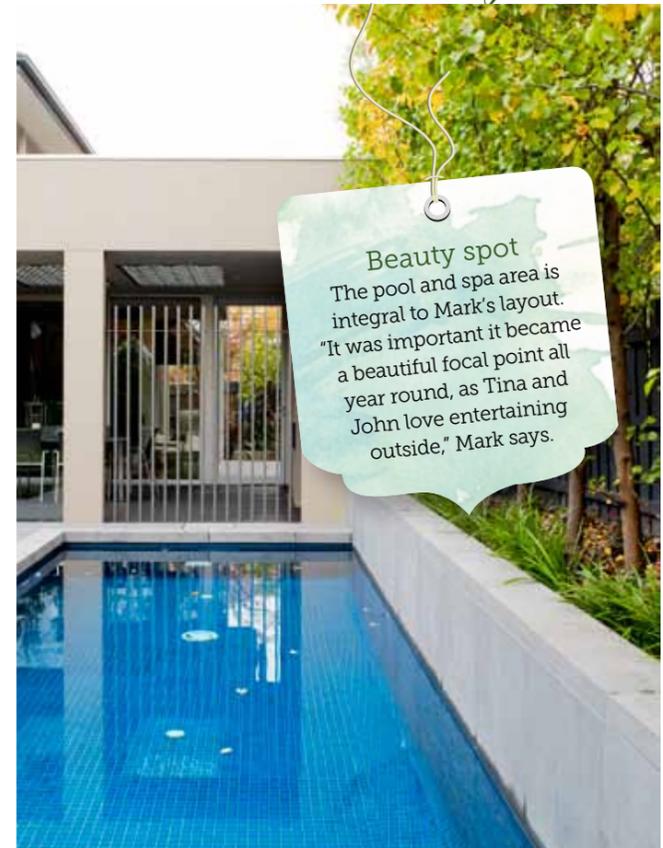
screen of blueberry ash, which grows up to 15 metres.

Tackling the garden's uneven, wedged layout to create a harmonious, useable space was Mark's top priority, so out went the grass and in came a stunning pool and spa. Inlaid with shimmering ocean-blue Cotto tiles and surrounded by moody sawn bluestone paving, the pool is complemented by an adjacent raised flowerbed lined with delicate ornamental pear trees and underplanted with hardy liriopie 'Royal Purple'.

"The garden seemed to be crying out for a pool, so we were very excited when we saw one in Mark's design," says Tina. "It sits snugly to one side of the garden, which gives us plenty of lounging space on the other." Mark completed the outdoor area with frameless-glass fencing and powder-coated steel 'fins'.

"I still can't quite believe this is our garden," says Tina. "We had hoped it would add value to both our home and lifestyle, and it has, tenfold. The garden and pool area is so calming and restful. It's a wonderful space we can relax and unwind in. I wish we'd done it sooner!" hb

Contacts
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Builder: Kingcraft Constructions, 0412 222 577.
Landscaper: BMC Landscape Construction, 0418 173 358.
Interior design: Beautiful Room, (03) 9830 4045.
Project manager: Stefanie Carne, (03) 9444 7820.



Beauty spot
The pool and spa area is integral to Mark's layout. "It was important it became a beautiful focal point all year round, as Tina and John love entertaining outside," Mark says.