

outdoors | MODERN LUXE
INTO THE BLUE

SET ON FIVE ACRES OF LUSH BUSHLAND, THIS CHIC PERTH POOLSIDE SANCTUARY STANDS OUT FROM ITS SURROUNDINGS, THANKS TO A DRAMATIC COLOUR PALETTE AND PLENTY OF TOUCH-ME TEXTURES

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splash zone In keeping with the home's mid-century modern style, landscape designer Denise Staffa of Outside In opted for a terrazzo-look exposed concrete with distinctive visual appeal. "The interior floors are all polished concrete, so this creates a great sense of continuity," she says. "For the outside concrete, we chose a honed finish, which creates a smooth surface but also provides slip resistance." Grey and charcoal flecks play off beautifully against the pool house's Scyon cladding by James Hardie, painted in Taubmans Black Fox, while the crisp white base of the concrete intensifies the blue of the pool. >

HERO MATERIAL

The exposed honed concrete is Limecrete in Salt And Pepper.



Glossy black tiles were a bold choice, "but I love how they reflect the surrounding greenery," says designer Denise, who filled the shower area with Golden Cane palms and New Zealand lilies.

HERO PLANT
The Australian native *Dichondra* fills in the gaps with its dense thatch of lily-pad leaves.

When landscape designer Denise Staffa first visited the home of Perth couple Taryn and Darren, she was overwhelmed by the enormity of the space. "The block of land is set on five acres and there's bushland and trees as far as the eye can see," says Denise, who worked closely with the owners to draw up ambitious plans for a three-stage outdoor renovation. The first stage, which is now complete, encompasses a swimming pool with storage for pool equipment and a casual entertaining area, plus an outdoor shower and toilet. The second and third stages, due to start this year, include a fully enclosed outdoor living area, kitchen, pizza bar and sunken fire pit, as well as a nature playground for the couple's five-year-old son, Jett.

The homeowners' brief was for a pool house with plenty of places to sit and unwind, a casual dining area and a small kitchen with a sink and bar fridge. "Though this space is at the back of the property, I still wanted to carry through the elements of the home's mid-century modern style," says Denise, who picked colours and materials inspired by the existing home and stunning surrounds.

Terrazzo-look concrete flooring and sculptural timber furniture speaks to the mid-century mood, but colour was also crucial. A white-on-white would leave the pool house "feeling cold and clinical," says Denise. The resulting monochromatic scheme uses a deep, dramatic black as the hero hue, which lends visual interest and makes surrounding colours pop. "The palette makes the space feel dynamic, but is also very restful on the eyes," she says. "It is truly an oasis tucked away from the rest of the world."

DESIGNER Denise Staffa, *Outside In*, outsidein.net.au.



Building an all-weather structure was paramount, but Denise also wanted to pay homage to the spectacular setting. The solution was adjustable louvres - painted in the same shade of black as the feature wall (opposite) - that the owners can open and close at their choosing.



Open shelving allows the owners to flaunt their style, plus helps to tie the timber elements of the furniture together. Crafted from Tasmanian oak, the shelves are the work of local craftsman Ivan Denys from Golden Whistler Wood Shop in Perth.

"THE DARK FEATURE WALL CREATES A WONDERFUL SENSE OF DEPTH"

~ DENISE, DESIGNER



dining "This space is large, so it needed depth to create a cosy, intimate feel," says Denise, who chose to continue the Scyon cladding used on the outside of the structure all the way into the kitchen to create a dramatic feature wall, also painted in Taubmans Black Fox. "The dark backdrop not only creates depth, but it also helps to tie all the darker elements together, such as the timber furniture and louvres," explains the landscape designer. The Caesarstone benchtop in Cloudburst and Polytec cabinets in Empire Oak complete the dining area's monochromatic look.

{EXPERT TIP}
COSY CURVES

"IN LARGE SPACES WHERE YOU WANT TO CREATE COSINESS, OPT FOR A ROUND OR OVAL TABLE," ADVISES DESIGNER DENISE. "THE CURVES CREATE A SENSE OF ENCLOSURE, AND LEND THEMSELVES WONDERFULLY TO OCCASIONS WHERE YOU WANT TO ENCOURAGE CONVERSATION."