



Utterly urbane

A sleek, pared-back design, this contemporary courtyard is a modern masterpiece



THE URBANE, PARED-BACK DESIGN OF THIS central courtyard is the perfect complement to the minimalist architecture of the home and its crisply modern interiors.

Designed by Steve Taylor of Creative Outdoor Solutions in conjunction with the homeowners, the contemporary courtyard features sleek, uncluttered lines and a restrained modern palette. The result is an open and airy courtyard and a seamless transition between interior and exterior spaces.

Being the central courtyard, it was imperative that every element be impeccably balanced and in perfect proportion to the house. Every structure and feature had to complement the home, both inside and out, and reflect the taste of the design-savvy owners who are responsible for the chosen sculpture and furnishings.

Large and luxurious, the swimming pool makes a sizeable claim on the courtyard yet is so well integrated into the overall design that it does not dominate. At one end of the pool sits a striking feature — a black-tiled wet-edge spa; the mirror-like surface of its water gives the

appearance of a reflection pond and adds to the serenity of the landscape.

The raised spa sits within both the outline of the pool and the floorplan of the covered outdoor room, creating a true sense of connection between pool, spa and outdoor entertaining area. Keeping the colour palette to mainly grey and white also eases the transition between spaces and ensure an overall feeling of harmony.

The paving is a mix of raven granite, white granite and white exposed aggregate, with raven granite also used to clad the spa and water feature. The deep-grey tones of the raven granite are complemented by the expanse of grey river pebbles that sits in front of one of the home's large floor-to-ceiling windows. Out of this pebbled bed rises a shimmering metal sculpture, its sinuous form contrasting the strong lines that characterise both the design of the home and the courtyard.

The loggia-style outdoor room is the social hub of the courtyard, its clean lines and unpretentious design working together to create a dateless look

and an atmosphere of calm. The design cleverly incorporates an existing Canary Island palm, which adds a dash of drama to the courtyard and a flourish of resort-style flair to the outdoor entertaining area.

Overall, planting is minimal, with only a flourish of clivias beneath the palm and a row of bromeliads standing proudly in the planter box behind the spa, both of which add discreet but welcome splashes of colour.

To ensure the courtyard can be enjoyed well into the evening hours, there is strategically placed lighting in the pool, outdoor room and throughout the landscape. A key element of the lighting plan is the illumination of certain design features, such as the sculpture, to create a magical nightscape that can be enjoyed from the internal living areas.

To create this stunningly simple landscape, Steve Taylor of Creative Outdoor Solutions worked closely with the pool builder, Goldfish Pools and Landscapes, and the builder of both the home and the outdoor room, David McCallum of DDB Design, Development and Building.



Project details

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