



# LIVING THE DREAM

From the bamboo screening to the gazebo, this garden is a tropical treat

**C**an you imagine anything better than coming home to a tropical oasis after a hectic day at work? No? How about entertaining friends in a Balinese-inspired, resort-style gazebo? Well, this lucky family in Sydney's Oyster Bay doesn't have to rely on their imaginations any more because they are now living the dream.

In this foliage-filled haven of calm, designed and built by Bamboo Habitat, the emphasis is on entertaining no matter what the season or the weather. Throughout, the use of natural materials and unique features creates a tranquil ambience and contributes a feeling of abundance.

"I'd describe the design of the garden as 'modern resort-style Bali' adapted to suit Sydney's weather conditions," says Michael Steer of Bamboo Habitat. "The heart of the design is a custom-designed hardwood timber gazebo with hand-carved sandstone inserts recessed into the posts and roof.

"Leading to the gazebo is a custom-designed



hardwood timber and sandstone walk bridge, which includes lighting to bathe the garden in a romantic glow in the evening. Add to this the 2m-tall hand-carved sandstone goddess water feature and the fish pond and the owners have the perfect tropical getaway — right in their own backyard."

The use of natural materials is key to the success of this project, from the plantation-grown Indonesian hardwood used for the gazebo framework and bridge, and the deck from Australian spotted gum, to the bamboo screening used on all of the fences. A rich smoky brown screening is the perfect backdrop for the lush gardens — and it's an eco-friendly, renewable material. Then there are the hand-crafted, recycled teak Balinese doors which partition off the barbecue and food



preparation areas so the focus is on 100 per cent relaxation.

The large sandstone Buddha water feature, which sits serenely next to the casual seating area, adds to the symphony of natural textures, as does the organic pathway that leads visitors from the front of the house through to the back. This path is made of natural white Indonesian pebbles teamed with granite and black lava stepping stones.

With comfort and functionality in mind,

the gazebo is fitted with large palm leaf-style ceiling fans for the summer and wall heating for the winter. Lighting is via uplights and downlights attached to the gazebo posts, as well as strategically placed glass lanterns. Lighting has also been installed throughout the garden to highlight the plantings and stone features.

The result is a Bali-inspired sanctuary where the owners can relax and unwind in resort-style comfort. Does it get any better than this? ■



**For more information**

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