

FAMILY ENTERTAINER

This multi-purpose rear garden makes formal and informal family entertaining a pure delight





The brief was this to take the bleak rear garden and turn it into an engaging space providing opportunities for formal and informal entertaining, as well as a pool for the children.

The pool area needed to be separate but easy to supervise from the house and it needed to be self sufficient with a toilet and change room facilities so that once there, people wouldn't have to journey back to the house. The owners, Silvana and Joe, also wanted somewhere for their dog Max to stay when visitors arrived.

In terms of style, Silvana wanted an attractive and contemporary garden. In terms of durability, it needed to be robust enough to survive drought conditions as well as the rough and tumble of children and friends playing football or having a game of cricket.

Our desire for multi-purpose entertaining areas has grown in recent times as a result of the increased popularity of outdoor entertaining. Years ago, a single area with a table, chairs and a barbecue was all that was required. Now we need to provide for different occasions, not just a sit-down meal. Often, we need to provide for more casual entertaining and, because we want to use

these spaces more often, we need them to be multi-functional. They may need to provide a stunning view from inside at night and may also need to be usable in inclement weather.

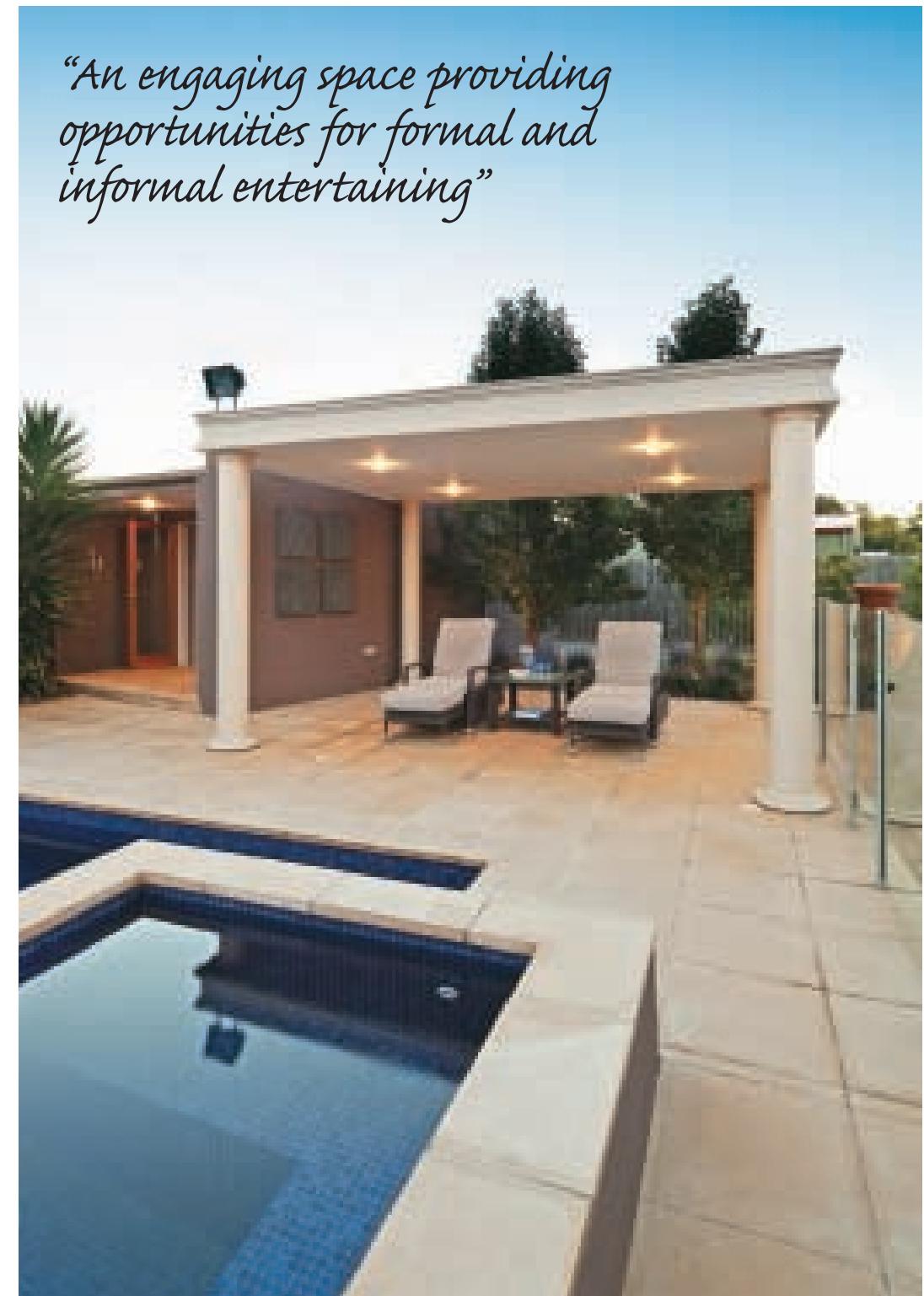
In Joe and Silvana's case, they needed a formal outdoor dining space to enjoy with both small and large groups of family and friends. They also needed to be able to use this space for less formal gatherings. It makes sense to position such a space adjacent to the house because when designed to match the home it functions as an outdoor room. This extends the home, making it seem larger, and also blurs the line between inside and outside. By having the outdoor dining area adjacent to the home

it is highly accessible and will allow it to be used extensively.

In this case, the dining area is complemented by an adjacent outdoor "kitchenette" consisting of a built-in cook top (complete with flue to keep the roof and walls clean) and a sink as well as cupboards and benches for food preparation and storage of utensils, crockery and cutlery. The fridge completes the picture so that while preparing and enjoying a meal outside, Silvana need not venture back and forth inside the house; all she needs is provided and at her fingertips.

The views of this space from inside the home welcome one outside and provide a

"An engaging space providing opportunities for formal and informal entertaining"





who want to enjoy the sun, there is plenty of paving around the pool.

These separate entertaining zones sit perfectly within the overall garden of the home. They each provide for slightly different occasions — one for more formal dining; the other for more casual entertaining — but both allow children to play safely and be supervised without necessarily being under Silvana and Joe's feet. ■

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connection between the home and the garden. Similarly, the views of the garden engage you even when you are still inside the home. This effect is intensified at night with strategic outdoor lighting.

The pool and spa zone has a pavilion which provides a toilet and vanity basin, as well as

a room to get changed in. The pavilion also provides a sense of place for those using the pool area. The roof line of the pavilion extends significantly to provide a large undercover area at the end of the pool. Here, casual outdoor furniture allows one to lounge by the pool in the shade with a drink or a snack. For those

