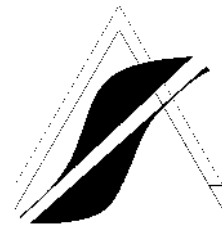




AILDM 2007 Landscape Design Awards Winner Category: Residential 1



This is a small flat backyard which has been subjected to hard wearing and abuse by two energetic dogs. The grass is thinning and in most areas with the dry has turned to dust and mud when it rains. It has become unserviceable. There is 50mm of top soil over a rock shelf. Drainage issues are evident as the area is below a cut bank with evidence of water entry from neighbouring properties. Surface & sub-surface drainage will be required.

The client felt the existing patio was too small given the large table that filled the area left no space for guests to move around. The client has a large extended family whom they regularly entertain. They utilize the patio for most meals regardless of parties and entertaining. They felt their only option to simply brick pave the whole area to get more usable space. The area needed to be low maintenance and easy to clean quickly. It needed to cater for a large group not necessarily in the one space but allow some movement and seating for small groups to sit together.

They wanted something modern yet not too out there. Would it be possible to emphasise the agapanthus flowering. The client liked the blue colouring. They decided as this would be entertaining the dogs would be yarded elsewhere, however, they would still use the area and it would need to cope with them for short periods.

My first thoughts were that raised planters and seating wall should be used to create some different spaces. The walls are rendered concrete block painted with a "Porter" limewash blue. This matches the agapanthus flower. The capping to the walls is "Edenstone" macchiato limestone double Bullnose 600 x 260 x 50mm. The height of all walls and planters is 500mm which makes a comfortable seat. The right angles of the house have been reflected in the wall/planter shapes and with all the pavement shapes. Squares form the planters and the main concrete area to the right of the patio. "Edenstone macchiato limestone 400 x 400mm pavers were used to assist in the repetition of the square shapes. The pavers are surrounded by different coloured decorative pebbles; 25mm rumbled sandstone and 20mm Uluru. The paver pebble sections were used to break up the area and not just use the coloured concretes, "Excel" Pate & Wheat.

Also the use of the pavers and pebble help keep the budget requirements intact. HPM stainless steel 12 volt lighting is used throughout with 50 watt clear uplights on the trees in the planter. 500mm high stainless bollards line the rear of the planters to give a glow near seating areas. Blue and white led bulbs were used to highlight the blues at night. Planting is simplistic with Magnolia little gem as the two feature planter trees. The under canopy is Diannela silver streak. Elaeocarpus eumundii are used to deflect the afternoon western sun. Hedging lillypilly (Acmena) is used in conjunction with the existing mock orange. Strelitzia is used as a secondary layer to attempt to modernise and bring in some more blue.

All plantings are behind walls and not in easy accessibility to children or the dogs. The only planting in trafficable areas are 3 Red fountain grass and these are meant as a soft architectural break in the paver and pebble side entry to the area.

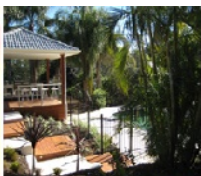


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