



Open appreciation

This outdoor area extends a remodelling project that opened up the back of the home. The design gives the modest-sized space an expansive feel



Architect: Architects Les Dykstra (Auckland)
Landscape and pool designer: Natural Habitats
Builder: Brian Cosford
Paving: Coloured concrete with etched squares from Peter Fell
Hard landscaping: Pool and feature wall plastered by LC Plastering
Pool: Quartzon plastered concrete, concrete blockwork by L & J Gagen Bricklaying
Pool chlorination: Chlorine in-line feeder from GB Pool Supplies
Pool heating: 250,000 BTU mini MaxGas heater from GB Pool Supplies
Pool filtration: Sand filter from GB Pool Supplies
Pool cleaner: Baracuda pool cleaner from GB Pool Supplies
Spa: Quartzon plastered concrete
Plants and lawns: Palms from Glenbrook Palms, cycads from Kings Plant Barn, other plantings from Wholesale Tree Co
Water feature: Sheer Descent from Leisuretime Products
Gates and fencing: Moduline Colorsteel
Outdoor furniture: Table, chairs from Freedom Furniture; swing chair from Nags Head Hammocks

Photography by
Kallan MacLeod

An outdoor space constantly in view from the home requires a multifaceted design approach. Elements to consider include ensuring the area connects well with the house, giving the outdoor area an expansive feel, and lastly, screening off unattractive views.

All these aesthetic factors were addressed when Natural Habitats designed this outdoor retreat as part of a contemporary addition to the home. Work included designing the pool shape, the feature rear wall, the shape of the patios and individual garden spaces. Design principal Mike Jack explains some aspects of the clean-lined project.

"The minimalist landscape and pool design is in keeping with the house upgrade," he says. "For example, grooved concrete paving echoes tiled floors found on the adjacent interior floors."

To maximise the sense of space, the pool expands at the rear, increasing its size visually when viewed from the home. A spa extends out on one side, and is symmetrically balanced by the pool steps on the other.

A strategically placed wall at the rear of the pool screens off unsightly elements.

"The wall provides a sculptural feature and allows existing mature palms to appear above it."

Facing page: This minimalist project by Natural Habitats connects well with the home.

Top left and right: The pool's deep end is closest to the patio, allowing children room for diving and jumping. A submerged shelf on the opposite side lets bathers sit beneath the water feature.

Above left and right: All-weather furniture contributes to the feel of an outdoor living room.