



Renowned Landscape Designer Scott Brown specialises in every aspect of domestic landscape and garden design, working on projects ranging from the small patios of inner-city apartments to large-scale rural properties around Australia. Creative and multi-talented, his designs work in harmony with the personality of each of his clients. Here, Scott takes us on a tour of an amazing home in the Mornington Peninsula on the beautiful Victorian coast, where outdoor living and a stunning garden take centre stage.



WHAT WERE YOU HOPING TO CREATE WITH THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT? I wanted the end product to look as if it 'belonged' in its natural, coastal setting. I also wanted its intended use to be compatible with the existing climate and location.

WHAT WERE THE OWNERS' SPECIFICATIONS? The clients wanted to incorporate a pool, weather-proof pavilion and entertaining precinct among proposed gardens and lawn areas. This all had to be designed and immersed within the native coastal vegetation and landscape,

and the architecture of the existing home had to be respected as well.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THIS PROJECT? I think the use of the pre-existing Moonah trees and their wonderful arching, grey trunks alongside the weathered, grey decking – and the grey bluestone pool is a favourite too. In 16 years of designing all over Australia, this is one of my most-loved projects. The relaxed, easygoing feel of the finished space belies the significant challenges we had to overcome in order for it to look 'simple'.

WHAT DID YOU FIND TO BE THE GREATEST CHALLENGE?

The site was covered in dense vegetation and scrub and was significantly undulating with gullies, dunes and mounds of sand and soil. We needed to select levels for the pool and the pavilion that would provide access to and from the surrounding spaces which were to become stairways, lawn, deck and garden. All of these elements needed to be positioned to work with the site and its various levels, and to provide protection from the prevailing winds on the pool, pavilion interior, and barbeque/entertaining area.





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WHAT WAS THE CLIENTS' RESPONSE TO THE FINISHED AREA?

They're very satisfied with the finished product. Different family members have their favourite areas – the parents enjoy the entertaining precinct, while the children love playing in the shallow water and bubbles of the sun 'pod' which is on the side of the pool.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT STYLE SUITS EACH CLIENT?

In order to get an understanding of a client's sense of style, I get them to show me some pictures of gardens or landscapes they like and don't like – with this I usually see a certain theme emerging.

Next I'll look carefully at the site and any existing features, elements or buildings that

are to remain and form part of the new environment.

Then we need to determine whether the proposed theme is compatible with the existing elements, our overall goal and the site. If it isn't, a compromise has to be made in order to arrive at a finished environment that's cohesive and has a great sense of place.

YOUR BEST TIP FOR MAKING OVER A BACKYARD AREA?

People should look at the big picture, rather than getting bogged down with details. Get the overall concept right first, then you can develop the details of each sub-area – safe in the knowledge that all the elements will fit and work together.

