

A haven for **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

This month's magnificent garden has been built around a strong belief in the value of family, friends and generous hospitality

It is the people who frequent a house who give it life, and make it the custodian of fond memories. While it is every homeowner's aspiration to create a living space where guests can be received in comfort and style, in few cases is the result quite as hugely successful as in this month's garden.

WELCOMING INDOOR-OUTDOOR FLOW

The garden features a fusion of outdoor and indoor living space which has been built around a strong belief in the value of family, friends and generous hospitality to all. The area is the heartbeat of the family home, and has been designed to be used comfortably throughout all the seasons.

The entire entertainment area has been designed without even the slightest change in level. This makes it easy and safe for the very young as well as the older members of the family to use. The house flows onto the swimming pool area, which in turn features an elegant pool house. Opposite the pool house, a striking and unusual sunken boma is tucked away, where life's bigger questions can be contemplated around a bushveld fire.

DRAMATIC DECK

Two pieces of lush green lawn bisect the area, while a vast wooden deck sweeps boldly out into the garden. Lush greenery wraps around the space, which is carefully designed to provide a sense of cozy intimacy without losing the expansive feel of the property.

TILES AND NOVEL SANDSTONE CLADDING

Unifying tiles throughout the entire combined space create unity and emphasise uninterrupted flow. Even the boma is finished in matching riven sandstone cladding; used vertically here for an unusual effect. The same goes for the retaining walls in the garden – unerring attention has been paid to creating a unified experience of the space. Concertina doors throughout allow for the physical boundaries of both the buildings to be virtually eliminated. Wherever you are in this space a full, free flow of air embraces you.



Concertina doors throughout blur the division of indoor and outdoor living spaces



The grandeur of an expansive living space does not quite stand alone – it still has to be carefully optimised.





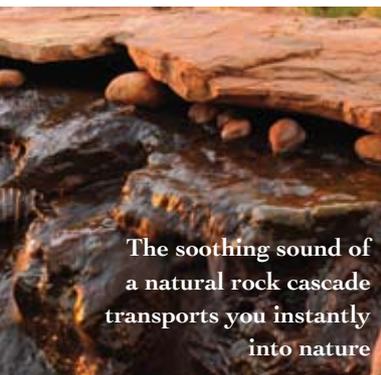
- PLANT LIST:**
1. Cocos palm
 2. *Phoenix roebelinii*
 3. *Dicksonia antarctica*
 4. *Plectranthus* sp.
 5. *Philodendron* 'Xanadu'
 6. *Dianthus* sp.
 7. *Microlepis* sp.
 8. *Felicia ameloides*
 9. *Cycas revoluta*
 10. *Nandina domestica*
 11. *Nandina pygmaea*
 12. *Duranta*
 13. *Salvia* & *Dianthus* mix
 14. *Scabiosa africana*
 15. *Chondropetalum tectorum*
 16. *Carex* 'Frosty Curls'
 17. *Zantedeschia aethiopica*
 18. *Cyathea* 'Brownie'
 19. *Acorus gramineus* 'Golden Edge'
 20. *Phormium* 'Baby Bronze'
 21. *Hebe* sp.
 22. *Caesalpinia ferrea* (Leopard tree)
 23. *Harphephyllum caffrum*
 24. *Phormium tenax* 'Yellow Wave'

Wild plum trees and cocos palms wrap around the deck like a protective mantle, and it is possible to view the expansive natural rock waterscape, the adjoining circular lawn complete with floodlights for night games and the far vistas of roaming game and horses, from the deck.

MOUNTAIN STREAM

The soothing sound of running water is everywhere. It starts with a natural rock cascade a little distance away from the pool house, from which the water spills into a meandering stream that gently winds

its way down to the large dam at the bottom of the garden. River stones have been scattered on the stream floor to mimic the feel of a natural mountain stream. If you close your eyes while standing on the wooden deck, it is easy



The soothing sound of a natural rock cascade transports you instantly into nature



to imagine that you are standing next to a small brook somewhere in the mountains, particularly as you are likely to see an antelope in the distance when you open your eyes!

EVOCATIVE AND COLOURFUL TROPICAL FEEL

Planting next to the deck has a tropical feel, with a bold grouping of three *Cycas revoluta*. Ferns, *Philodendron* 'Xanadu', arum lilies and *Strelitzia reginae*, interspersed with other flowering perennials and groundcovers, layer the interest at close quarters next to the deck. Star jasmine creeps timidly underneath the deck to deliver its wonderful fragrance in unexpected places.

The sunnier areas enjoy a profusion of mixed perennial planting. Blue *Felicia*, *Diascia*, trustworthy and hard-working *Limonium perezii* and mounding Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*) provide a palette of no-fuss colour all year round.

Plantings close to the living areas are in informal groups, whereas large generous sweeps have been employed in the distance to avoid a crowded feel. Mass plantings of plumbago, day lilies, cannas, lavender, garlic plants, agapanthus and wild irises are visible from this vantage point.

The shapes of the pool and the two flanking lawn areas hug the architectural lines of the building faithfully. This curved

aspect is repeated in the shape of the deck, the lawn, the boma structure and the retaining walls. The wooden deck contains no visible screws – a further contribution to the easy, flowing aspect of this space.

Small groups of lightweight furniture are scattered around the deck, and are sufficiently varied to once again accommodate different preferences and physical needs. Elegant urns stand sentinel at key points, framing or simply demarcating the space.

This alluring garden says: "Whoever you are, come in, sit down, enjoy and rest a while," and nothing in the loveliness before your eyes can contradict or oppose the invitation.

TOP TIPS FOR MANAGING AN EXPANSIVE SPACE:

- It is vital to create a sense of enclosure where it is needed, without 'closing in' the space.
- Maintain the most spectacular vistas – even frame them.
- Allow different areas to acquire a distinctive 'feel' or purpose, to allow a sequential experience.
- Take care to keep focal points strong, so as not to 'lose' them visually in the space.
- Rely on mass plantings for a bold effect in the distance and to provide finer-detailed enjoyment closer at hand.