A Guide to Creating your Ultimate Backyard

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BRICKWORKS

About this guide

The outdoor essentials

F rom courtyards to patios and wide, open lawns – beautifully landscaped gardens are an essential ingredient in the great Australian lifestyle. We relax, workout and entertain outdoors, and for most of us, there's nowhere we'd rather be than our own private oasis. The unique Australian climate means that <u>indooroutdoor living</u> is now a year-round activity and, perhaps more importantly than ever before, our very own pocket of paradise provides much-needed reprieve from the outside world. In this guide, we take you through the ins and outs of crafting the ultimate outdoor area. From conversation and relaxation spaces, to dream outdoor kitchens and playful pool areas, take <u>inspiration</u> from our line-up of exterior experts to dream big when it comes to your outdoor space.



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Eat, Drink, Play, Relax.

Quick find menu:

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Chapter 1. Eat

It's all about alfresco

s there anything more quintessentially Australian than a summer spent crowded around a smoky barbeque, tongs in hand and deep in conversation? A good oldfashioned cookout goes hand in hand with the luxury of outdoor living and luckily for us, extended balmy nights and advancements in outdoor heating and design, mean that making the most out of our love for alfresco entertaining can easily extend to year-round enjoyment.

We all know the kitchen is the heart of the home, but now more than ever, the best room in the house isn't always inside. Taking it beyond the humble barbeque, an outdoor kitchen is the perfect way to bring the indoors out and reveals a whole new world when it comes to entertaining and family enjoyment.

With the right inspiration, creating the ultimate entertainer's kitchen in your backyard is certainly doable.

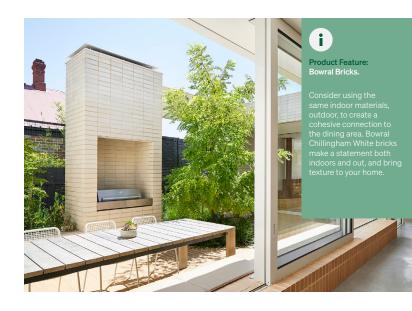


Follow these tips for creating a practical and inviting dining zone, purposebuilt for all-weather entertaining

1.

Go with the flow

Ensuring an effective indoor – outdoor experience is all about creating a seamless transition between spaces. Consider your entry points to the garden, bi-fold or pocket sliding doors create flow between the internal and external rooms – especially when made with glass.





2.

Sand

Choose flexible furniture

Whether you're an avid entertainer, or host the yearly family Christmas, consider outdoor furniture that's adaptable. Stacking chairs, collapsible or extendable tables and bench seating, allows room for one more at a moment's notice and can be conveniently packed away when not in use.

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Consider the elements

Creating an outdoor room means planning for unpredictable weather. Whether you're in a climate that's prone to high temperatures, erratic cold spells (looking at you Melbourne), protection from the elements is paramount to a well-used space. External shutters or awnings provide shade and can prevent unexpected weather conditions ruining a perfectly good barbeque. Patio heaters or discreet built-in panel heating are all-weather essentials. Material-wise, you can't go past brick for the ultimate no-maintenance, weather resistant option that will last a lifetime.



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Make a statement

Whether you're dealing with a small space or the luxury of an expansive alfresco area, a feature wall is a great way to add impact and delineate the space. You can't go wrong with a stylish exposed brick or masonry feature wall that creates depth and a feeling of understated and everlasting elegance. Greenwalls, or vertical gardens, are a fantastic way to add life to a courtyard or patio area, look fantastic against brick and can double as herb gardens.



Have fun with colour

While outdoor furniture and decorative pieces must be weather-proof, it doesn't mean you can't have a little fun when it comes to furnishings. Start with a neutral base of natural materials and finishes, like brick or masonry. This timeless palette for your walls and floors allow endless design possibilities! Incorporating bolder elements like coloured cushions, textured throws and bright table decorations adds pops of personality that are easily changed as trends come and go. stral Masonry. Grey Bloc

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The Recap

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1.

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Go with the flow

Choose flexible furniture

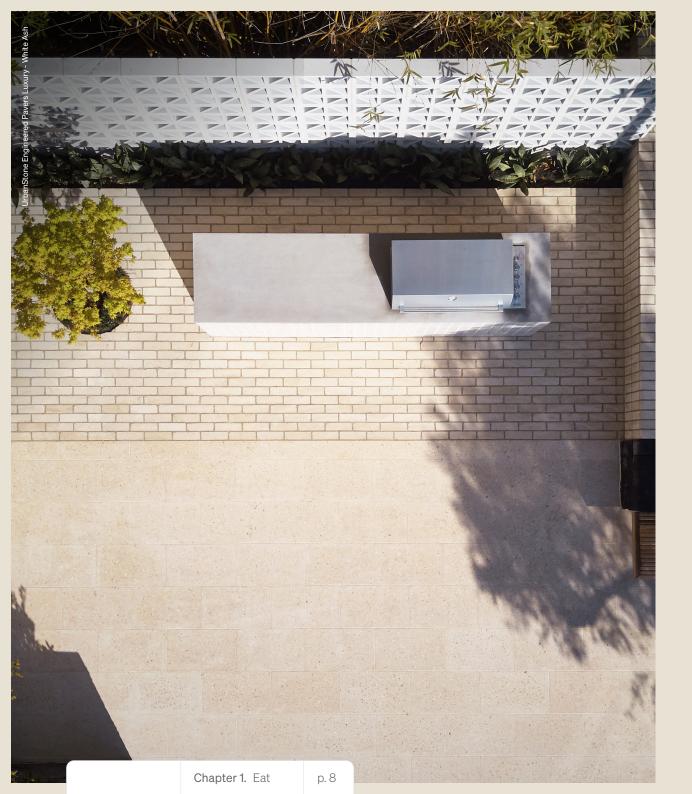
Consider the elements

Make a statement

5. Have fun with colour

GB Masonry. Diamond Breeze – P

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Expert Tips with:



Anthony Wyre

Designer / Director Wyre & Co Anthony Wyre from landscape design practice, Wyre & Co, reveals how to get the ultimate entertainer's kitchen in your backyard.

"Lately we've all come to understand, perhaps more than ever, just how important our outdoor spaces are. Whether you're working from home, relaxing, or (with time) entertaining, our gardens can do it all and homeowners are keen to maximise on usable space to accommodate this. Outdoor kitchens are an accessible way to expand living spaces while embracing our surroundings and reconnecting with nature."



Anthony Wyre Designer / Director Wyre & Co

"A harmonious balance between interior and exterior zones is central to the success of the modern Australian home and key to embracing our lifestyle. Outdoor kitchens, dining and entertaining areas are one of the many ways we choose to facilitate this philosophy."

GB Mas

1. Prioritise practicality

Space planning and zoning is necessary to ensure your outdoor entertaining area can accommodate your guests comfortably. Consider access and the proximity to the interior as well as storage, preparation and wet areas. It's important to also keep in mind the relationship between the outdoor kitchen and the dining area. Consider layout, navigation, materials and furnishings and how the kitchen will function alongside competing elements or gathering spaces such as a pool or outdoor fireplace.





2. Explore functionality

Think about how and when the outdoor kitchen will be used, and the equipment necessary to deliver. This includes pizza ovens, built-in barbeques, cooktops and even an outdoor bar and fridge. For smaller gardens, or those requiring greater flexibility, select freestanding modular kitchen units instead.

Chapter 1. Eat

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Product Feature: UrbanStone & GB Masonry

Flooring / Paving

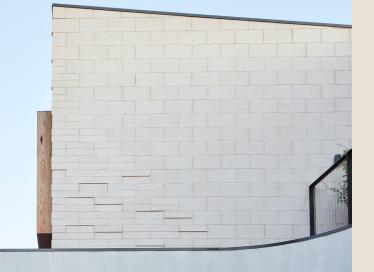
The Luxury paver range by UrbanStone has timeless appeal and is specially crafted for outdoor spaces. Use it as flooring for an impressive and resilient design

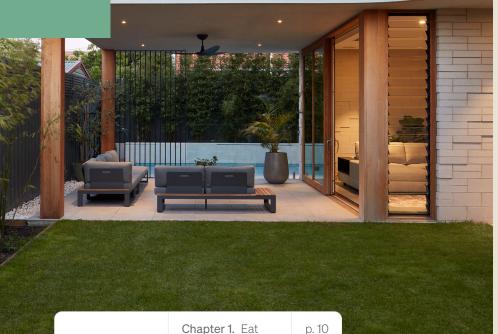
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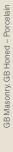
The GB Masonry collection of coloured masonry blocks is versatile and flexible offering a contemporary look. Use it to create external structures that delineate the space and add wow factor. The rustic finish of GB Sandstone Rock Face coloured masonry echoes the character of sandstone and earthen walls. Use it to create a feature wall, inside or out. GB Smooth masonry range gives the look and feel of a classic large format block. Use it as a backsplash for a builtin kitchen to instil a real sense of outdoor luxury.



Anthony Wyre Designer / Director Wyre & Co











3. Consider task and ambient lighting

Outdoor lighting designs have come a long way and there are many options available. Task lighting such as directional spotlights or larger wall lamps are essential in outdoor cook zones, but lighting is also fundamental to creating the right atmosphere. Using candles when entertaining will set the mood for the evening ahead.

Invest in quality materials

Outdoor structures must be built to weather the elements and materials specified for outdoor kitchens must be able to withstand a range of temperatures, but they are also a great way to demarcate zones within the garden. To achieve this, select hard wearing and durable materials, such as brick, with an unrivalled quality finish.

5. Create a sense of security

Privacy is central to creating an intimate and inviting outdoor dining and entertaining area. Consider screening with layers of mid-to-low-level plantings for texture and visual interest. Oversized pots are an accessible solution to a lack of space and are a great way to introduce scale and materiality to an outdoor setting. Chapter 2. Drink

Eat, Drink, Play, Relax.

Quick find menu:



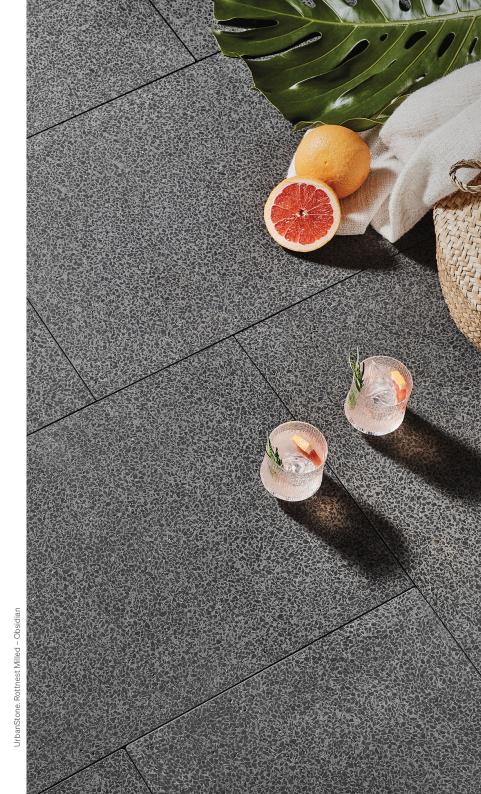
Chapter 2. Drink

Drink to that

A lfresco entertaining zones that double as intimate and inviting areas are more important to homeowners than ever before.

A dedicated drinks area is the ultimate antidote to the stress of modern life. There's nothing quite like settling into a comfy chair, either for some serenity, or surrounded by friends, and toasting to another day. Open-air entertaining zones offer an idyllic place to lounge, either near a pool, off the dining area (perfect for after-dinner drinks) or in a cosy courtyard nook.

Whatever <u>space</u> you're working with, there are ways to create a chic outdoor oasis for hosting friends and family through summer and beyond. Using the right materials ensures you'll be able to create the perfect area to kick back and unwind in, or, if so inclined – keep the party going.



Follow these simple tips to creating a warm and inviting area to toast to throughout the seasons.

1.

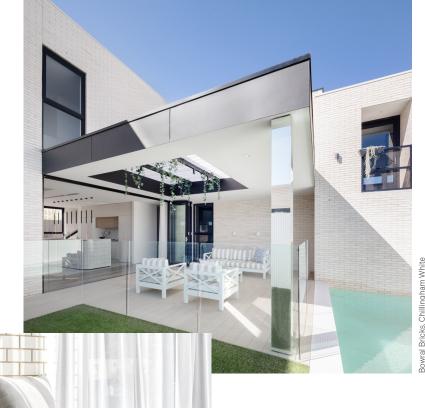
Pave the way

Marking out a place to position your drinks area is key to creating a dedicated zone that will invite guests to linger longer. A large format paver, such as the <u>'Australian Granite'</u> range from <u>Urbanstone</u> can cover large spaces with simple installation and provide a rich and beautifully textured base from which to craft your perfect urban oasis.



anStone. Cottesloe Shot Blast – Silver I

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Comfort is key

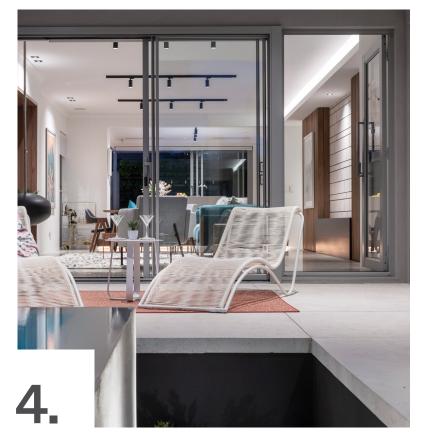
Choosing the right set up when it comes to seating in a drinks area is key to keeping guests sipping in style. Whether going for outdoor sofas or armchairs, skip the stainless steel and opt for plush additions with weatherproof fabric finishes and deep, inviting profiles to encourage conversation. Scatter occasional cushions that can be swapped in and out as needed and include a couple of side tables, so all guests have ease of access when setting down their glasses.

3.

Add fire

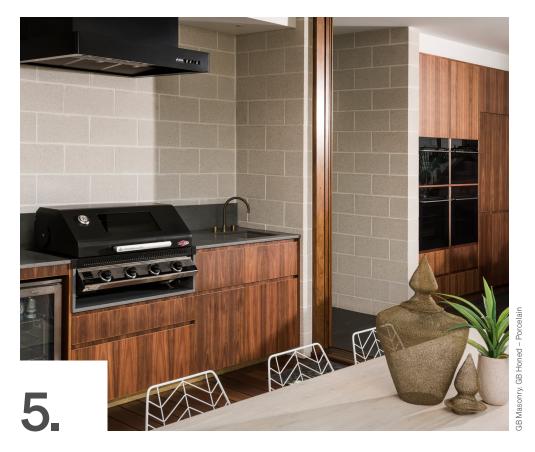
A fire pit or outdoor fireplace will add instant appeal to an outdoor area and can be used for cooking too (toasted marshmallows and whisky anyone?). Nothing quite compares to a warm, relaxing evening by the fire, especially when surrounded by nature. A built-in fireplace in a durable and fireproof material such brick or Heron retaining wall blocks from Austral Masonry, makes for a simple and elegant design feature. With a mortarless interlock and three block types specifically designed for key components of the wall, Heron makes installing as simple and satisfying as laying Lego.





Get technical

We all know that setting the mood is an essential ingredient in nights well-spent. Take your drinks retreat to the next level with ambient task lighting by way of solar-powered pathway lights or spotlights that illuminate the surrounding greenery, while creating a soft and inviting glow. Want to really impress? Install a wireless outdoor speaker system concealed from view for an immersive experience that's guaranteed to keep the party going.



Cheers to that!

What's a drinks area without a bar trolley? Primed and ready to be transported at a moments notice, a well-stocked bar contains all the elements needed to ensure your guests are never left wanting. Bottles of mineral water, flavoured tonic and a salubrious selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic options are a must for crafting a night (or day) to remember.

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The Recap

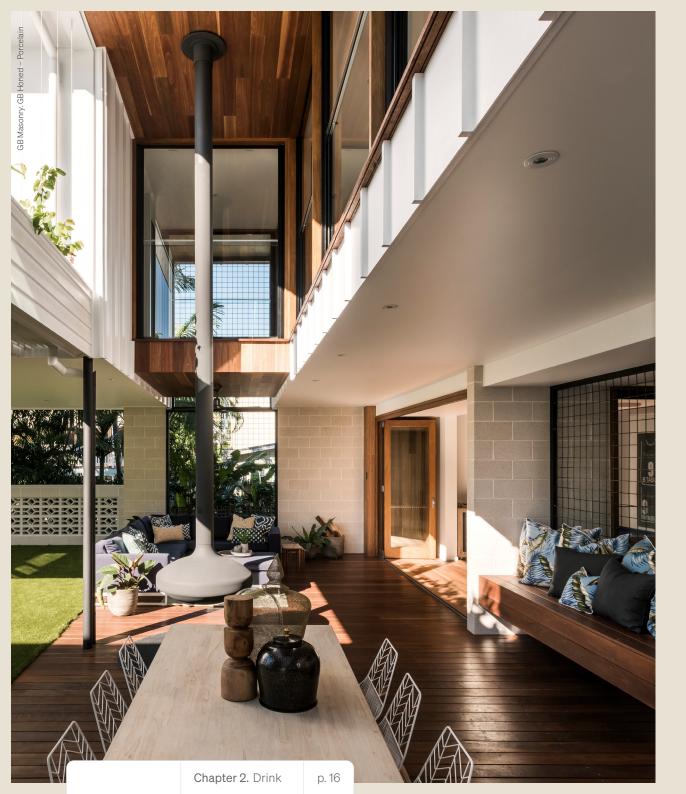
- **1.** Pave the way
- 2. Comfort is key
- 3. Add fire

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Rottnest

UrbanStone.

- 4. Get technical
- 5. Cheers to that!



Expert Tips with:



Naomi Barin

Director of Dangar Barin Smith Landscape designer Naomi Barin of Dangar Barin Smith on creating the ultimate fire pit.

"Fire itself is the entertainment. People are innately drawn to it. Accordingly, fire pits are social and interactive tools. A fire pit is less about transforming a garden and more about activating different spaces that may otherwise be unused, for example at night or during the cooler months, creating an outdoor area that's prime for year-round enjoyment."



The rich and warm colourways of Bowra



Naomi Barin **Director of Dangar Barin Smith**



2. Choose your adventure

Depending on the space you have, there is an option to suit most! Big backyards can of course accommodate built-in stone or brick fire pits. Smaller spaces, such as courtyards or patios are prime for fire bowls or portable braziers. A simple design using a robust, natural material makes the most classic and sophisticated fire pit, and never goes out of style.

3. Keep essentials close

Fire pits needs to be convenient for you to be able to enjoy them. Have your wood, or other fuel, stacked nearby where you are more likely to use it. Using a chic weatherproof vessel to hold your fuel makes sure your outdoor space is always visually appealing. If you have a built-in fire, carve out a nook to store your wood throughout the seasons.



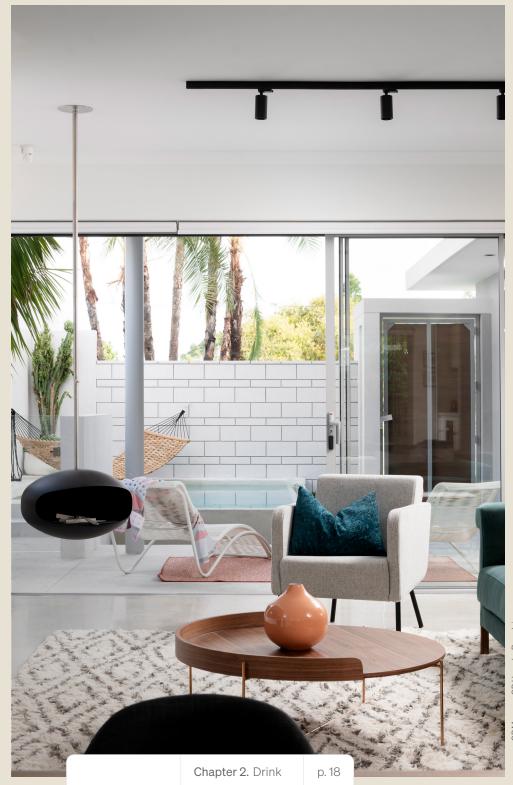
1. Set the scene

Whether a modern bowl. brazier or built-in option, the correct base is paramount to a successful – and safe – space. Fire pits work best when positioned on a fire-proof surface. Whether bricks, gravel or paving, the space must have plenty of room for movement around the pit when it's lit. Avoid tight, secluded or high traffic areas and ensure it's in an open area and not under any canopies.



Chapter 2. Drink

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Naomi Barin Director of Dangar Barin Smith

"By installing your firepit in an area of the garden that is underutilised, you create opportunity to open up the space and make it feel more generous and inviting."



4. Create comfort

Sitting around an open fire is as soothing as it is hypnotising, but in order to fully appreciate the spoils of the fire's warm embrace, the right seating is key. Depending on the vibe you want to create, seating can be as simple as a rustic hardwood log and as luxurious as a few deep and inviting armchairs. For safety reasons, it's best to keep combustible material out of the equation here.



5. Add ambience

There's nothing quite like the experience of warming yourself by the fire, but did you know there are ways to further enhance your fireside relaxation? Coming into the holiday season, why not add a festive olfactory punch and toss some cinnamon sticks and dried citrus into the fire for a sensory experience full of sentimentality. Mozzies ruining the party? Burning sage and rosemary can help keep the bugs at bay. Chapter 3. Play

Eat, Drink, Play, Relax.

Quick find menu:

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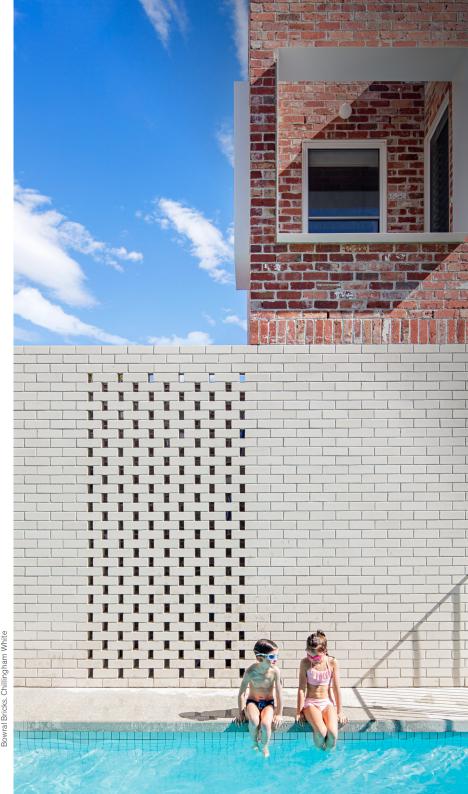
Chapter 3. Play

Pool Party

ome is where the heart is, but for many Australians, the true soul of the home lies not inside, but outdoors – where freedom calls and downtime beckons. A place where barbeques hold court, lawns pose as pitches and pools are a permanent fixture of high summer living.

To get the best out of your outdoor oasis we recommend creating zones that allow you to cater to everyone. From splash zones to play areas and everything in between, creating the ultimate backyard that pulls the kids into nature, reminding everyone just how good outdoor living really is.

Whether you're working with a sprawling backyard or just wanting to reinvigorate a disused patio, transforming your outdoor space into a recreationready destination is easier than you think.



An outdoor area designed with mingling in mind is key to achieving the ultimate summer escape.

Keep it connected

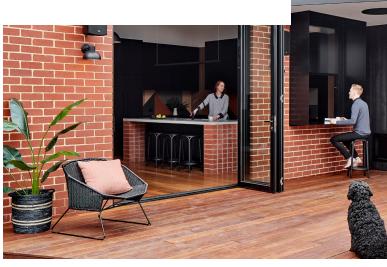
One of the biggest trends in Australian homes to have emerged over the past few years is the addition of a servery window to the kitchen. Stylish and convenient, a servery is an easy way to take indoor-outdoor entertaining to the next level, what's not to love? It's also a fantastic way to encourage alfresco living. Building a bench that sits out from your kitchen window with a natural material, like brick, masonry or timber, creates a striking statement and will provide the ultimate summertime perch for guests and family members alike.



Consider your zones

If you're lucky enough to have the space, it's important to keep multi-recreational planning in mind. This allows different generations to come together and connect with each other in the same space. Not all level areas have to be taken up with a lawn – consider decomposed granite as a surface that's perfect for kicking the ball around or playing a family game of Bocce. Boules courts are easily designed with simple brick edging and low retaining-style walls can be used at either side for seating and play. A glazed brick retaining wall, such as one made with Austral Brick's 'Burlesque' range is a cutting-edge design element that serves to delineate the space and draw the eye in.



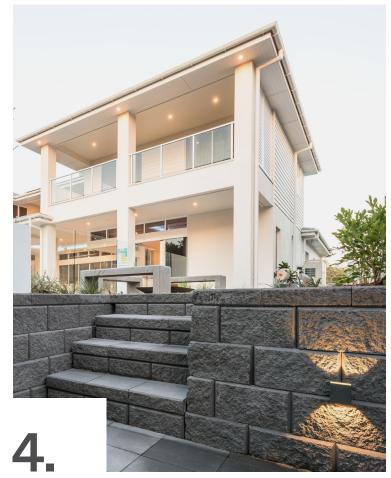


3.

Go natural

Rather than purchasing swing sets or cubby houses, consider natural elements for play and recreation. If you are lucky enough to have a solid tree in the garden, it could work for a treehouse (that turns into a teenage retreat later) or a swing on a lower branch. Creating a space-saving bench seat around your tree is simple with a curvaceous brick design. If you don't have trees, put it in the work now and plant one or two – your future self will thank you when you're enjoying the spoils of dappled shade in summer and glorious colour in Autumn.





Light the way

Get more longevity out of your entertaining zone with lighting that sets the mood when the sun goes down. Strings of soft lights can turn even the most modest of spaces into a magical retreat while well-designed task lighting is an ambient way to keep guests comfortable well into the night.



Austral Bricks. La Paloma –

Think big

If you're short on space, a considered balcony design can make a big impact on a small scale. A thoughtfully designed balcony or patio garden, separated into dining and hang-out zones by small brick or stone retaining walls (that double as planters), can be just as appealing as a bigger area. The Recap

Keep it connected 1.

2. Consider your zones

З. Go natural

Light the way 4.

Think big 5.

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Expert Tips with:



Richard Unsworth

Co-owner Garden Life

Landscaping designer and co-owner of renowned outdoor store Garden Life, Richard Unsworth shares his top tips for creating the pool area of your dreams.

"Brick works well to surround a pool, it's non slip and adds that organic, softer element."



Richard Unsworth Co-owner Garden Life

1. Prioritise proportions

When thinking about designing a garden that incorporates a pool, carefully consider its size and what available space it's going to take up. Often pools can be too large for a garden, resulting in small lawns and diminished entertaining areas. Think about a smaller pool that allows for more generous space around it. It's important to get the balance and proportions right within the whole garden, so take into consideration what your priorities are before you dive in.

2.

Figure out your fencing

While frameless glass offers clean sight lines and unobstructed views of the pool, it's a harsh, reflective material that constantly needs to be cleaned. Look into using a steel or timber pool fence with a narrow profile and vertical rods that feels lighter and more breathable than solid glass. Painted a dark colour, your eye will see straight through it. Mesh is also a good material for pool fences, using a larger timber or steel as a frame.



3. Surrounds with substance

Large format pavers that that provide grip and are non-slip, like Urbanstone's 'Coogee' range, are ideal for surrounding the pool area with an aesthetically pleasing and practical finish. But don't discount bricks when it comes to making a stylish statement in the splash zone. Bricks are non-slip and add a softer, more organic element and can also be a useful material when repaving around an existing pool. Depending on how bricks are laid, they have the unique ability to follow curves and difficult shapes, creating interest and impact without the need for constant upkeep.



Richard Unsworth Co-owner Garden Life



4. Go green

There's nothing that says resortlevel luxury more than a pool surrounded by lush greenery. If there's space, set the pool fence back from the paving within a larger garden bed, incorporating a combination of climbing and statement plantings that soften the space add shade. A double duty retaining wall, built from a material like Austral Masonry's Hayman range, provides pool safety and can house greenery, transforming your area into the ultimate retreat.



5. Get in the zone

Carving out space for relaxation within the pool parameters is key to getting maximum enjoyment from your wet area. If space is lacking, include a couple of comfortable, weatherproof loungers and a statement umbrella. If you're after big impact and ultimate reward, factor a cabana into your final design. Built in a modern yet timeless stone finish, such as Austral Masonry's GB Sandstone Split or Rock Face masonry blocks, a cabana adds shade, style and ample seating for year-round enjoyment.

Chapter 4. Relax

Eat, Drink, Play, Relax.

Quick find menu:

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Chapter 4. Relax

Take it Easy

one are the days when we took our backyards for granted. A green space, or outdoor area, is now not only important for reprieve, but also for its biophilic attributes. Our mental health has never been more top of mind and the soothing, calming qualities of fresh air and greenery are unmatched when it comes to providing peace and much-needed tranquillity.

If you're lucky enough to have the space to extend your living areas and take it outside, that extra room to breathe provides a totally transformative experience, both mentally, physically and spiritually.

Being able to connect to the outdoors is hugely important for our general wellbeing, especially during a day and age when screen time often outweighs time spent in nature. Here, we take you through some of the best ways to transform your outdoor space into a sanctuary of calm and relaxation.



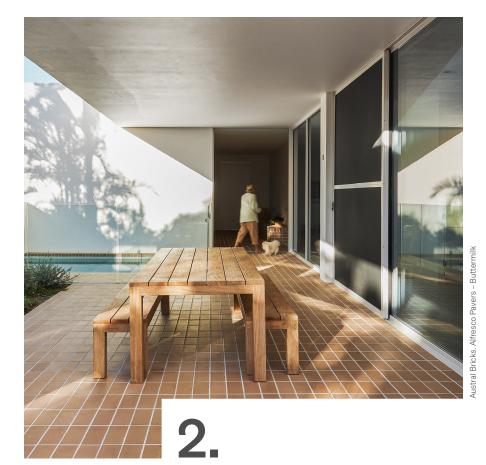
A fail-safe guide to transforming your outdoor area into the ultimate wellness retreat

1.

Let the light in

Depending on what size outdoor area you have, one of the most important factors in turning your backyard or veranda into a relaxing haven, is bringing some of that outside-in. This can be as easy as removing heavy blinds or obstructions that cover sightlines to the outdoors or placing potted plants near the windows and doors to encourage a connection to the outdoors before you even step outside. What better way to embrace natural light than with the dappled and gently dispersed capabilities of the iconic breeze block? Both beautiful and functional, level up your design with the architecturally inspired material for an enduring statement that will transform the way you experience your space.





Consider the design

When thinking about how to utilise your outdoor space, it's all about taking advantage of the useable square meterage of living. The best outdoor spaces are designed with the interior of the home in mind. Consider all the same aspects you would if you were designing an interior space – whether that be furnishings, light, shade, as well as details that make it feel like a home. This could mean adding colour and warmth with cushions and throws or bringing indoor materials – such as floor tiles, brickwork, masonry or natural stone – out into the patio area.

3.

Add lushness with plants

Whether you have a patio, balcony or lawn area, an abundance of plantings, whether potted or inground, can take a space from drab and sparse, to rich and inviting in an instant. There's no greater feeling than being able to sit back and relax, surrounded by the colours and sounds of nature.

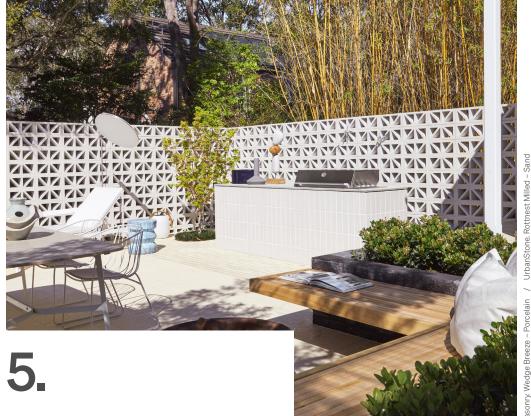


Austral Masonry. Grey Blocks



Create spaces that sing

Whether it's a simple bench seat in the backyard, a tree swing or a pergola, creating zones or 'destinations' that beckon you out and invite you over are key to introducing spaces that will keep you coming back throughout the year. Carving out a space, either with designated paving or bordered with low brick, or masonry block walls, creates an ideal place to sit back and take it all in.



Ensure privacy

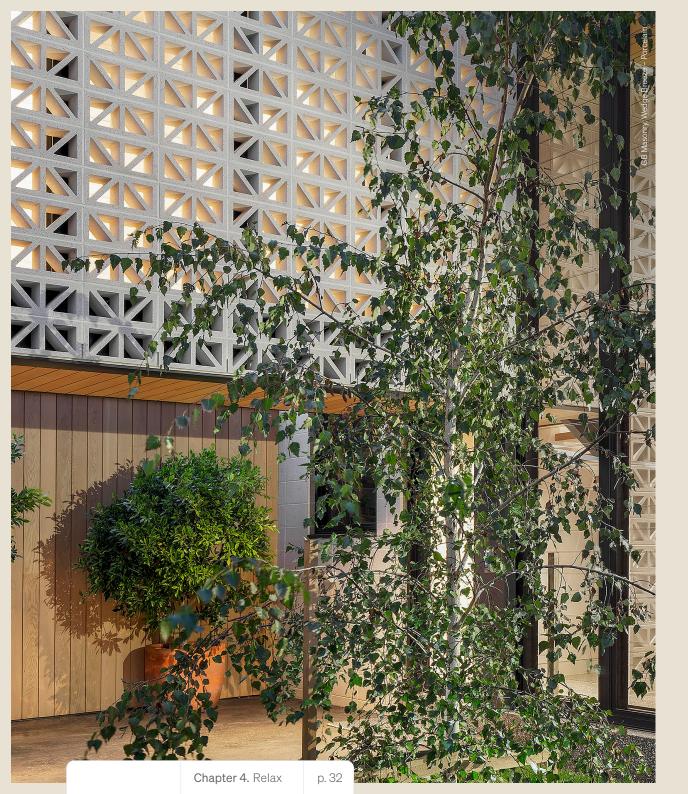
Being able to truly relax in your own space comes down to privacy. Your outdoor room will always feel more like an oasis if there is a sense of security and enclosure. Fences and garden walls, either the standard timber options, or built to last with natural brick and stone, can provide protection from a neighbour's prying eyes and lattice, or clever landscaping, is also a great way to ensure your privacy continues throughout the years.

Rottnest Mil 3B Masonry. Wedge Br

The Recap

- 1. Let the light in
- 2. Consider the design
- 3. Add lushness with plants
- 4. Create spaces that sing
- 5. Ensure privacy





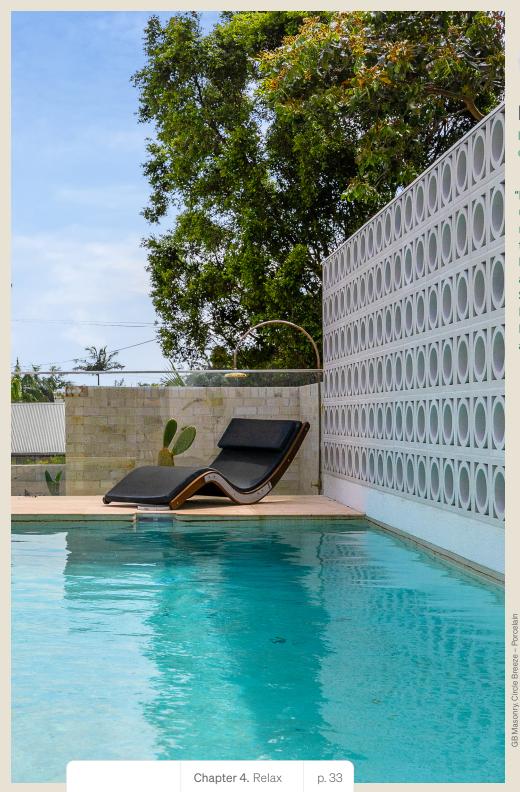
Expert Tips with:



Fran Hale

Founder + Principal Designer of Peachy Green Fran Hale, founder and principal designer of Peachy Green takes us through her top tips for creating a little slice of garden paradise using breeze blocks.

"The decorative, repetitive quality of breeze blocks is something I return to over and over. With the one material you can create texture and layering, especially when used en masse. They're a fantastic combination of form and function, creating a beautiful, diffused light, subtle airflow and a view to greenery beyond."





Fran Hale

Founder + Principal Designer of Peachy Green

"Beloved for their unique profile, multifunctionality and thermal properties, breeze blocks are a staple of Palm Springs, Coastal and Mid-Century design, but their applications are endless!

1.

When deciding on an outdoor room or relaxation zone in your garden, it's best to consider how many people (on average) will be using the space. If you're a couple looking for a little spot to soak up the sun with an early morning coffee, or a family seeking to unwind with a book or the newspaper on a Saturday afternoon, defining a space that's big enough to suit your needs is essential to ongoing enjoyment of the space.





2. Decide on dimensions

Once you've marked out the ideal footprint, you can decide on the details. Do you want high, pergola-style walls that provide a real sense of separation from the rest of the garden? Or are you interested in lower, more subtle borders? Breeze blocks are fantastic for creating builtin bench seats and topped with timber that's left to grey off, is a chic way to channel coastal luxe. Available in nine different formats and seven colourways there's a breeze block to suit every style of home.

Room to move



Fran Hale Founder + Principal Designer of Peachy Green

"Creating an outdoor area using breeze blocks is the perfect way to create a sense of enclosure within in a larger area. With a bit of structure and hardscaping, softened by planting, it can transform an outdoor area into one you keep coming back to."

Breeze

Circle

GB Masonry.



3. Soften the space

Breeze blocks are the perfect backdrop for evergreens. Invest in plants that will keep their colour all year round, providing a verdant surrounding for your relaxation area. If you're after more structure, choose hedges or shrubs that can be moulded to mimic the breeze block walls. For a touch of layering, climbers that grow vertically on the walls add a beautiful finish and draw the harder material back into nature. If you're after that classic Palm Springs or Mid-Century aesthetic, you can't go past a selection of succulents or lush, Australian natives filled with colour and texture to create a real vibe.



Designer details

4.

Mix up your materials to create a soft, inviting space that speaks to its natural surrounds. Breeze blocks, as a natural product, work well with a palette of natural stone, gravel and rustic timber finishes. Add flexible furniture like a couple of powder coated steel chairs, a small coffee table and a stool or two to create room for more to drop by, or simply remove to keep your sanctuary more private.

5. Keep it cosy

Part of the benefit of having a designated relaxation space in the garden is that it's available year-round. One way to keep it that way is to install subtle, low voltage LED lighting dotted throughout the garden and uplighting foliage around the breeze blocks. The uplighting casts bold shadows and keeps the space a central feature of the garden even after the sun goes down. To keep drawing people our through the shoulder seasons and beyond, add a brazier or fire pit to the space and you'll be singing its praises all year.

Want to learn more?

Join us in person at one of our Design Centres or Design Studios, or find even more on our website.



Colour Consultations

Building or renovating a home is a major investment – and it should be an enjoyable experience for you. We can help with a one-to-one colour consultation where our experts can guide you on colour trends, the right fit and style, and ideas that will give you a genuinely individual look.



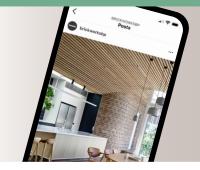
iVisualise

Using Artificial Intelligence and digital technology, you're now able to experience colours, forms and profiles with our online colour visualisation tool. iVisualise helps make selection seamless and simple – whether you're looking for a more traditional product, or something more contemporary.



Visit Us

Your local Brickworks Design Centre and Design Studio is a one-stop destination for advice and inspiration, and where you can experience the quality of our product range first-hand. Our experienced consultants will guide you through the range and help you find the best possible solution for your project – within your budget.



Stay inspired

For up to the minute inspiration, style advice and new product releases join us on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Pinterest.

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