

This unique property merges outdoor living with specialty wellness features for the ultimate experience.



sense of ease

EXOTIC OUTDOOR SPACE OFFERS
A LUXURIOUS GETAWAY

Tropical landscapes might not be a common request for Garden Studio Design, but this one gave the luxury landscape design/build firm a chance to rise to the challenge. “This project was an opportunity to showcase how layered design and intentional planning can transform a small backyard footprint,” says Chris Fenmore, principal designer. “We pushed ourselves to bring in unique touches, lifestyle elements, and functionality—all tailored to our client’s site-specific needs—to create a space where every detail works in harmony with the way they live.”

The clients had a comprehensive vision. “Their wish list was ambitious: a pool, spa-inspired features like a sauna, cold plunge, and outdoor shower, along with areas for cooking, lounging, and fireside gatherings,” says Fenmore. “Because we were working with a limited footprint, careful planning was essential to make everything fit comfortably.”

DIG Landscape Construction did the landscape build and SB Design House did the decorating for the outdoor space that’s inspired by the clients’ love for travel and the resort-style living of the tropical destinations they frequent. “Our intention was to craft an outdoor environment that mirrors the ease and relaxation of a vacation home. With such busy lives,

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our clients wanted their backyard to be a place where they could slow down, unwind, and truly breathe,” says Fenmore, who helped craft the specialty *wellness deck*. “Every corner was planned to capture that sense of ease you’d expect from a getaway.”

Their personal retreat was also designed with entertaining in mind. The outdoor kitchen includes all the bells and whistles plus a durable porcelain countertop with ample surface space for guests. Scandinavian Modern furniture adds comfort to areas like the fireplace lounge and the bar counter where a pass-through kitchen window turns poolside meals into frequent occasions.

The natural environment combines an arid plant palette with bold, broadleaf tropicals; olive trees and shrubs, lavender, *Pittosporum*, *Senecio serpens*, *Senecio decaryi*, and *Crassula ‘Blue Bird’* meet *Strelitzia nicolai*, giant elephant ears, and triangle palm.

With this project, the team’s efforts stretched beyond the landscape. “In addition to designing the [yards], we collaborated on the exterior architectural finishes of the home,” says Fenmore. “With new masonry, fresh paint, wood details, and layered plantings, it now feels elevated and full of character.” In the alfresco space, luxurious and durable materials include the limestone hardscape and stone facade details. She adds, “Together, these elements form a layered experience that transforms the backyard into a resort-style retreat.” 

THESE PAGES: A tropical vibe and Scandinavian-modern furniture contribute to the peaceful feel in this backyard destination. Added comfort comes from an outdoor pool, fireplace, sauna, and other elements that elevate the overall experience for the homeowners and their guests—who also benefit from the outdoor kitchen.

beyond well-being

Chris Fenmore shares how this splendid outdoor space supports mind, body, and soul.

Take a refresher course. Tucked into a corner, the wellness deck feels private yet connected to the overall experience. A row of greenery provides a natural screen that softens the space without concealing it.

Enjoy a spa day. “The sauna, cold plunge, and outdoor shower were carefully planned as a wellness sequence, creating a destination within the garden,” she says. “The pool was positioned as the centerpiece, balancing the yard and connecting seamlessly to the surrounding zones,” adds Fenmore.

Make it all-inclusive. “Each feature was designed to stand beautifully on its own, yet together they feel intentional . . .,” she says. “Their close proximity also makes moving between them effortless, allowing our clients to fully immerse themselves in the spa-like ritual.”