

FRESH! For all tropical, subtropical and warm climate gardens

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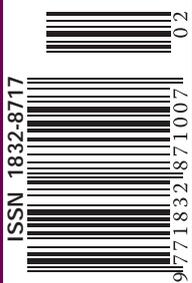
ISSUE 7
QUARTERLY

subTropical Gardening

and landscaping in warm climates



local advice for
local gardeners



■ NATIVES
– gardens & plants



■ PLANT FOCUS
– angels & pendas



■ DESIGN
– pools & ponds



■ SUBTROPICALIA
COLLECTOR



Timor black bamboo.



Daniel Cole MAIH
Horticulturist – Byron Bay
text [images by Sean Watson]

Located in central Byron Bay, the landscape and architecture of 'The Villas of Byron' embrace a luxurious, contemporary Balinese influence with traditional and modern elements.

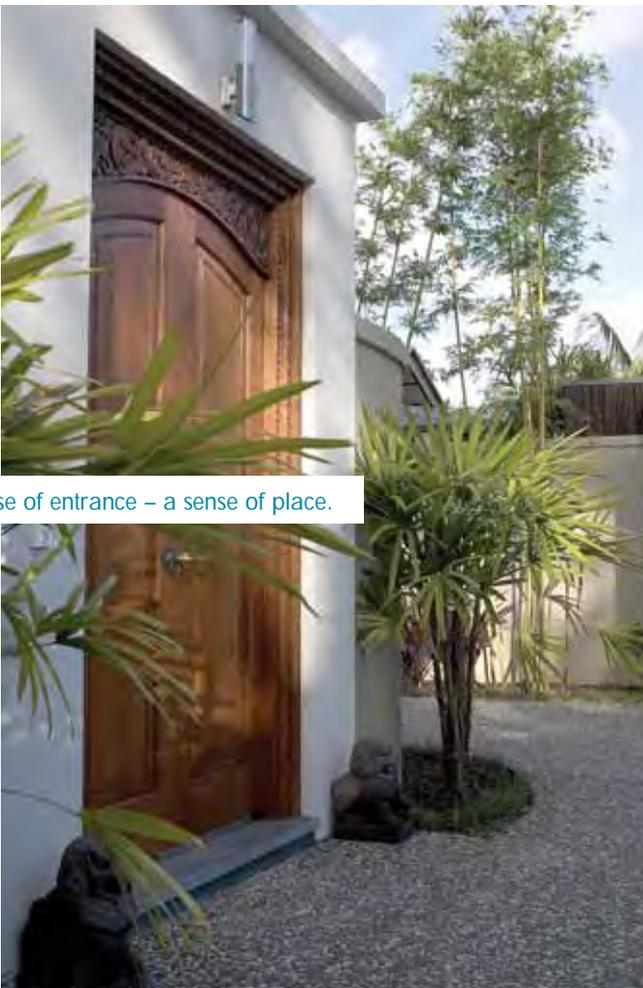
The incorporation of the day spa offers exceptional outdoor grounds and living opportunities for guests. Bold rendered walls provide privacy from the urban surroundings while adding intimacy to the courtyard gardens.

These courtyards successfully connect and merge indoors without forming an integral living space. Rendered walls also act as retaining and backdrops for planting. The

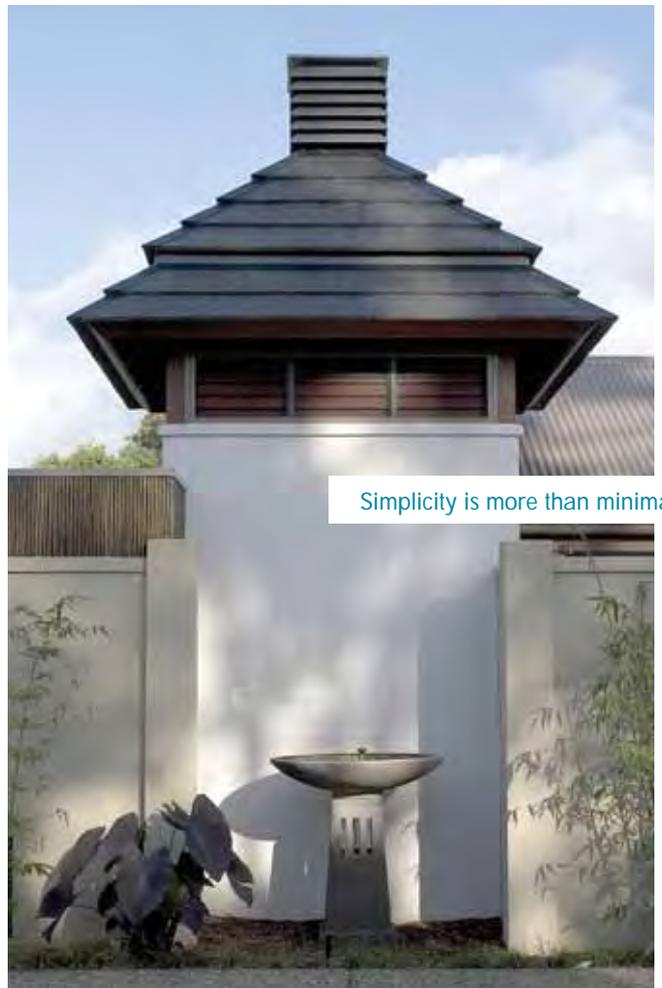
change in level adds interest, depth and provides poolside seating.

Combined water feature and plunge pool are transformed into functional space. Courtyards in the warm, coastal climate of Byron Bay have become a natural extension of 'The Villas' accommodation. The use of water throughout the internal courtyards adds movement, while increasing the auditory experience of the garden. Sunlight, breezes and views are considered and captured within this project.

At night, garden lighting defines pathway access with subtle tones and shafts of light. Pedestrian movement is gently guided rather



A sense of entrance – a sense of place.



Simplicity is more than minimalism.



Kentia palm (*Howea forsteriana*) ARECACEAE

Classic indoor palm with single trunk grows to 1.5-2m with spreading fronds. Often triple planted to give more foliage.

Light: Medium light to bright light. **Water:** Keep moist in bright light but in low light let dry out more often. **Problems:** Mealybug, scale, caterpillars, grasshopper if outside. Roots will rot if potting mix is kept too wet.

Lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*) ARECACEAE

Multi-cane upright palm with dark green dense fan shaped leaves. Will grow to 1.5m indoors. Slow growing.

Light: Medium to high light. **Water:** Keep moist in bright light but in low light let it dry out more often. Does not mind being root bound. **Problems:** Mealybug, caterpillars, grasshoppers if outside.



Wax flower (*Anthurium* cultivars) ARACEAE

Tropical foliage clump-like plants which produce highly attractive long lasting flowers when kept on the plant. **Light:** Medium light. **Water:** Keep moist in medium light and drier in low light and cold months. **Problems:** Mealybugs, aphids and mites.

Bamboo palm

(*Chamaedorea seifrizii*) ARECACEAE

A very popular house plant. A tall sparse grower with slender canes holding the delicate leaves. Will grow to 2m indoors. **Light:** Medium light. **Water:** Keep moist in bright light but in low light let it dry out more often. **Problems:** Mealybug.



'Janet Craig' (*Dracaena deremensis*) RUSCACEAE

This is an upright plant with large deep green foliage. Will grow to 2m if allowed. **Light:** Low to medium light. **Water:** Keep moist in medium light and drier in low light and cold months. **Problems:** Mealybug. Over watering will cause leaf rot.



Parlour palm (*Chamaedorea elegans*) ARECACEAE

A short plant with canes holding the dense delicate leaves. Will grow to 1m. **Light:** Medium light to bright light. **Water:** Keep moist in bright light but in low light let it dry out more often. **Problems:** Bright light will cause bleaching of the leaves. Mealybugs and Red Spotted Mites.



Peace lily (*Spathiphyllum* cultivars) ARACEAE

A quick growing plant with large deep green glossy leaves. Has a white lily-like flower on a long stem. Will grow to 1m high and 1m wide. **Light:** Medium to low light. **Water:** Keep soil moist, this thirsty plant is quite happy to sit in shallow water for a short time. **Problems:** If under watered, leaves will wilt and may not recover if water is not supplied soon enough.

Happy plant (*Dracaena fragrans* 'Massangeana') RUSCACEAE

A tall flush of foliage on top of a thick cane. Juvenile leaves are shorter and variegated whereas mature leaves get longer and may lose variegation. Usually triple planted to give foliage at three levels. 1.5-1.7m. **Light:** Low to medium light. **Water:** Water weekly to moisten the soil, less water in low light and cold months. **Problems:** Caterpillars and grasshoppers can be a nuisance if outside.



Xanthostemon



Xanthostemon verticillatus

Bloomfield penda

Native to north east Queensland.

Height: cuttings grown plants 1-3m, seedling plants up to 6m.

Flowers: lime cream blossoms mainly in spring but can occur sporadic throughout the year.

Leaves: small glossy narrow green leaves up to 6cm long.

Likes: full sun, moist soil, well-drained and mulched.



Xanthostemon chrysanthus

golden penda

Native to north east Queensland.

Height: in cultivation up to 6m, wild specimens in bush up to 15m.

Flowers: brilliant yellow clusters abundant over plant after rain periods in late summer and autumn.

Leaves: glossy green up to 18cm long with new shoots red-tinged.

Likes: full sun, moist soil, well mulched. Irrigation required during periods of drought.

Optional: variegated leaf form available *X. chrysanthus* 'Trail Blazer'.

Climbers

**Botanical
Common
Family
Note**

Callerya megasperma

native wisteria

FABACEAE

Previously known as *Milletia megasperma*

When in full bloom this climber has the attraction to stop passing vehicles. Native to the subtropical rainforests of Queensland and New South Wales the rampant climber forms lianes in nature assisting it to reach the tops of rainforests and mature trees.

The pinnate leaves become a muted backdrop to the purple-blue-white pea-shaped flowers that are borne in large sprays during spring. Although the true wisteria blossoms hang downward, this native has flowers that stand upwards. Additionally this climber is an evergreen.

The vigorous nature of this native means that this plant may need monitoring to ensure it does not outgrow its allotted area. It is however an excellent plant to grow so as to screen out unwanted views.

Seeds can be collected from the large furry pods and are known to germinate swiftly.

Best growing conditions:

- moist and deep organically rich soils
- watering required during extended periods of low rainfall
- tolerates mild frost conditions.

Landscape use

- Along fences and over pergolas.
- A strong support is needed for this vine.
- Native gardens for fauna habitat.





Paul Plant FAIH
Horticulturist – Ipswich
text+images

...separating brom pups:

Here we used *Aechmea fasciata* 'Primera'

1 At some point potted bromeliads develop 'pups' that will eventually replace the parent plant. By removing pups you may encourage more to be created.



2 Look for a strong pup that is at least a third of the size of the parent plant.



3 Use sharp secateurs to cut the pup off the parent plant close to the base of the parent plant.



4 Place pup firmly in a suitable coconut fibre media or open mixture. Applying sulphur to the base of the wound may help in reducing rot infection. Support the pup with stakes if needed.



...make a milk spray for fungus problems:

1 If your vegetables are showing signs of mildew, try the natural milk spray. What you need is milk (normal fat milk), water and an atomiser (mister).



2 Make a mix of 1 part milk to 10 parts water.



3 Pour into an atomiser and shake well.



4 Spray top and bottom of each leaf thoroughly. Apply frequently when needed. This mixture is not worth keeping or storing so only make up as much as you need.

