

# Designer Gardens

..... Gather some inspiration for your next landscape project .....



## 01.

### COOGEE MODERN BEACH HOUSE

This sumptuous modern beach house renovation in Sydney's eastern suburbs is a wonderful example of just what can be achieved with good design, attention to detail and expert craftsmanship. The 25-year-old home has been transformed in a major renovation project by builder Darren Hall from Pride and Passion.

Externally, the home has plenty of street appeal. Darren says they included a carefully considered and sourced blend of materials that complemented each other. "Spotted gum was used to contrast with the stone and cement render surfaces, which created a nice balance of textures," he enthuses.

The team at Secret Gardens were brought in to transform the outdoor space. In the area pictured, the black and charcoal of the house creates the perfect backdrop for, and contrast to, a wide array of planting. A cluster of three white pots, each with a different plant, adds a modern edge to this space. A pebbled path leads to Bluestone stepping stones and a firepit, in keeping with the contemporary vibe. The planting really works to soften the space, particularly the edges created by the roof and windows. Photo by Ben Guthrie. [secretgardens.com.au](http://secretgardens.com.au); [prideandpassion.com.au](http://prideandpassion.com.au)





## 02.

### AMAROO

There's nothing like the refreshing scent of the ocean. In this expansive Balmoral, NSW, home, the sea breeze dances in the surrounding trees and drifts through the large open windows, reminding the family that they live in a true beachside paradise.

Victoria Dennis from TDDP Architects took one look at this block and knew the house had to be situated in a location where it would enjoy the full potential the setting had to offer. So she got to work with the help of Lawson & Lovell Building Services. Not only was this a beachside block, it was situated in a leafy bush area that felt worlds away from the hustle and bustle of the city. "Site meetings were frequently joined by a local kookaburra that became part of the construction team," says Victoria.

A large undercover deck is the perfect location for entertaining all year round, with glass fencing allowing for safety concerns without impacting the view. Follow the garden path around the home and get lost in the levels of the retained gardens, resplendent with lush green grass and, of course, the contemporary pool.

The property truly embodies the laidback Australian lifestyle while enjoying the many benefits nature has to offer. "Living in a 'flame zone' does not mean we cannot have serene and beautifully designed spaces," says Victoria. Photos by Adam Hollingworth. [northernbeachesbuilders.com.au](http://northernbeachesbuilders.com.au); [tddparchitects.com](http://tddparchitects.com)

#### WE LOVE

The pot plant edging around the pool





# 03.

## TERRACINA

This four-bedroom family home in Miami, South Florida, designed by SAOTA, is located on a pie-shaped lot in the city of Golden Beach, an affluent and exclusive small municipality on a narrow strip of land between the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Intracoastal Waterway to the west. The site, at the end of a cul-de-sac, features spectacular views up the wide span of the Intracoastal Waterway to the north-west and extensive water frontage along its radius edge. The house has been positioned near to the boundary line towards the back of the property to maximise waterside frontage.

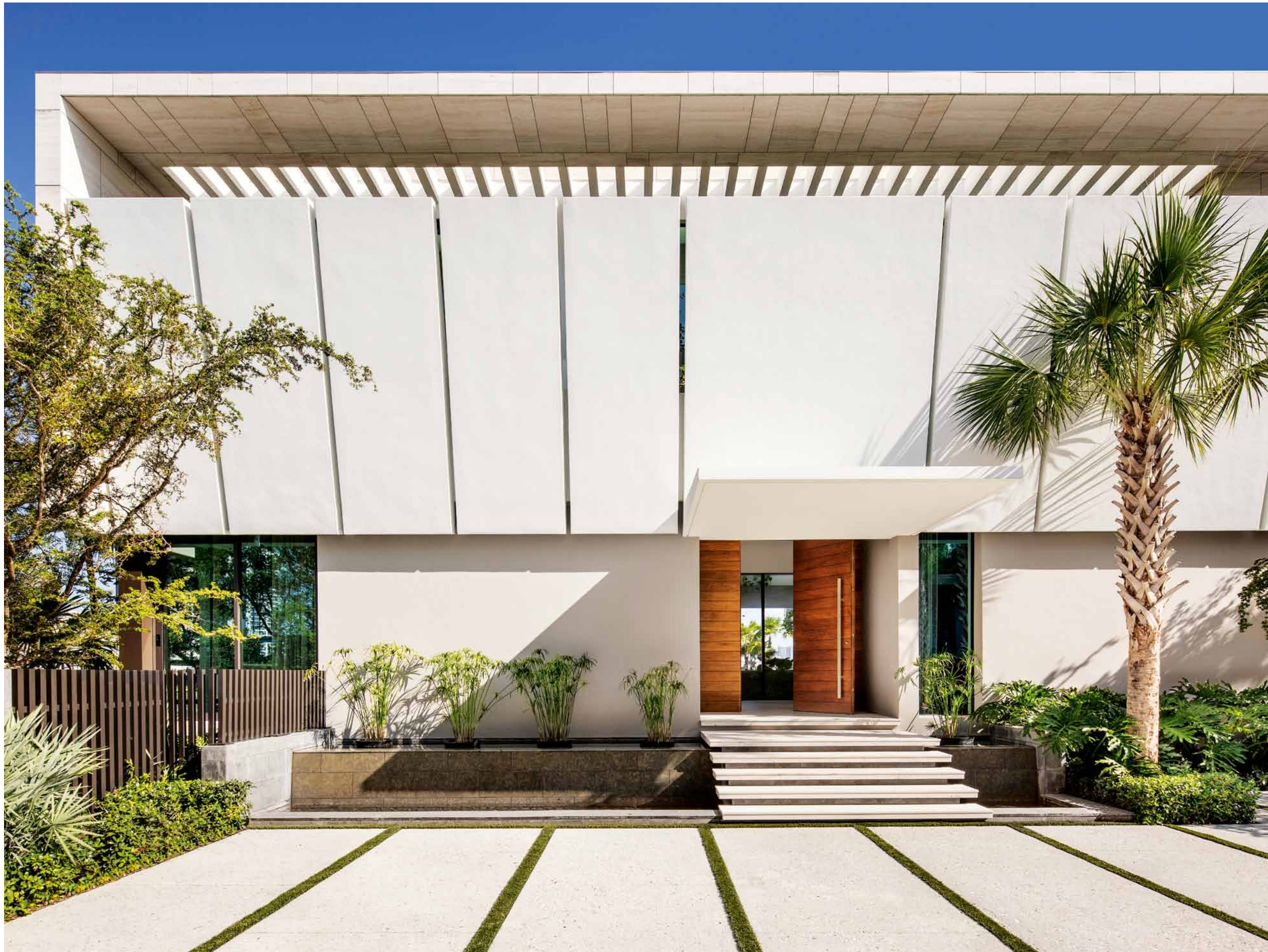
SAOTA chose a layered approach in which the house mediates a progressive experience that unfolds between a muscular, monolithic, protective screen of concrete panels presented to the street and a light, transparent treatment on the facade facing the waterway.

A spine along the eastern property line accommodates a kitchen and back-of-house functions including a gym. From it, three “fingers” stretch out at right angles in the direction of the waterway, accommodating the living rooms and a series of shaded terraces that peel away from the outlook.

This fragmented scheme not only responds to the water’s edge and the vistas beyond but also breaks down the building mass, allowing the landscaping to interrupt the plan. This porous arrangement creates a rhythmic series of landscaped outdoor “rooms” and covered outdoor terraces that support the kind of indoor-outdoor relationship appropriate to Miami’s waterside lifestyle and climate.

The lightness and delicacy of the interiors is articulated on the water-facing facade with a series of bead-blasted, brassy, laser-cut perforated aluminium screens, which contrast with a palette of stucco and unfilled travertine (as a nod to Floridian coral stone). Lush emerald plantings of broad-leaf Alocasia California and cascading Railroad Vine — including roof gardens — integrate the contemporary building with its setting. Words by Graham Wood. Photos by Adam Letch.

[saota.com](http://saota.com)







WE LOVE

The series of lines created by hard- and softscaping at the front of the house







## 04.

### SURRY HILLS COURTYARD

Having designed the homeowners' previous garden, Kev Quelch from inovasis design was briefed to create an inner-city sanctuary for this young family of four's new home in Sydney's Surry Hills. A once cramped and cluttered courtyard and garage was completely demolished as part of a major renovation of the home and has been totally transformed into a year-round entertaining space with a studio above the new garage.

There was ironstone below the surface, so Kev had to be creative. He designed a raised garden bed to provide the sufficient deep soil space required by council, and to allow for the planting of a small Crepe Myrtle tree that provides dappled shade in summer and also allows the winter sun to flood the area. Due to limited space, the raised garden bed provided the opportunity for cantilevered concrete bench seating which complemented the new polished concrete dining table.

A small patch of lawn adjacent to an outdoor fireplace provides a welcome splash of green, and the combination of a large planter with a Blueberry Ash along with custom wall planters suspended from the garage wall provide for additional planting to punctuate and soften the hardscaping.

Firewood storage is accommodated in two floating custom-made powder-coated aluminium boxes either side of the chimney.

Black-steel Crittall French doors open up to this limestone-paved courtyard, providing a true indoor/outdoor connection or, in the homeowner's words, "A green oasis in the middle of the city." Photo by Dave Wheeler.

[inovasisdesign.com.au](http://inovasisdesign.com.au)

WE LOVE

The clean lines of this courtyard