



A large dining room table becomes the social hub of the outdoor kitchen.

Life's now one big holiday at home

DENNIS LINGANE

A resort hotel in Malaysia's Phuket is a favourite holiday destination for Melanie and Paul Edwards and was the inspiration for the alfresco area in their Atwell home.

They wanted to feel as though they were on holiday every weekend, so top of the shopping list was a lap pool followed by a wood-fired pizza oven.

Mrs Edwards said that while her husband liked to swim for exercise, she wanted a pool that provided a visual backdrop to their living area. So a long pool was the answer to both requirements.

The pool stretches right down the side of the house which is long enough for Mr Edwards to get in decent laps but also creates a resort backdrop to the kitchen, living room, games room and their bedroom through a wall of E-glass.

A glass fence between the alfresco area and the pool provides the necessary child security for the pool while maintaining an open-plan look to the external living areas.

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The other priority for Mr Edwards was a wood-fired pizza oven because he loved pizzas and loved to cook them, his wife said. She gives a big tick to the passion to cook them because it enables her and her lady friends to sit back and sip resort-style long drinks as he slaves over a hot oven.

The outdoor kitchen and dining area was therefore designed around this cooking statement. The oven was placed in the corner of the outdoor kitchen with cabinets on either side including two glass-fronted drinks fridges providing a

diverse collection of imported beers. These cabinets are topped off with easy-wipe reconstituted stone with a stainless-steel sink.

The need for a barbecue was accommodated with an island cooking centre that doubles as the traditional gathering spot for males in lieu of a bar when they gravitate to this area to keep Mr Edwards company when the pizza is fired up.

But while the island barbecue makes an ideal replacement for a traditional drinks bar it has no hood so can't be used as an oven. But Mr Edwards said he cooked anything that needed this treatment in the pizza oven.

For Mrs Edwards the loungers were a priority and she confessed to splurging on a luxury lounge setting.

"They were awfully expensive but I had just won \$14,000 on Lotto so I splashed out," she said.

A big jarrah dining table — which caters for the biggest parties — and ceiling fans complete the resort atmosphere when Mr Edwards is in the mood to cook in this gourmet playroom.

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