

Balinese beauty completes picture

■ Katie Lee

When Samantha and Tony Mato purchased an ex-display home in Southern River, they loved the outdoor space but felt something was missing.

"We had a great backyard with decking, fountains and cabana with built-in barbecue," Mrs Mato said.

Then, while putting finishes touches around the home where they had lived for almost a year, the couple realised "it was a big family home with all the bells and whistles but no pool".

Moving from a property with a backyard, which they had renovated to reflect their love of Balinese design, they decided to inject a more tropical flavour

into their southern suburbs space, turning what was a "nothing area" into a relaxing poolside retreat.

"The area where the pool is now was just plain with plants around the fence line and fake lawn in the centre — nothing special," Mrs Mato said. Now, she describes the space as "tranquil", with a pool area that takes the backyard to a whole new level.

Mr and Mrs Mato enlisted the expertise of Barrier Reef Pools owner Brad Hilbert on how to introduce a swimming pool into the small space.

"We didn't know what space in the garden would be the best for a pool so Barrier Reef consulted us on different locations within the backyard," Mrs Mato said.

"They then organised everything to do with installing the pool, a heater for the pool, paving the edge and fencing."

Barrier Reef also happened to be the only company which had a pool to fit their space, Ms Mato said — a 5.5m fibreglass plunge pool with a long internal bench seat and indigo shimmer finish.

"Paving around the pool was to be same as the villas in Bali with the volcanic black stone or similar," Ms Mato said of the Bonita stone pool surround.

"We used minimal paving and used artificial lawn around the pool to give it a soft look with stepping stones and pebbles."

"We wanted the pump and pool blanket hidden but also wanted something to be visually attractive and match the decking."



After getting a few quotes from suppliers, the couple decided to make the pump enclosure themselves from a timber-decked seat that hides the pool blanket and accessories.

They now feel like they have a holiday retreat in their backyard.

"We wanted to have an area also so the kids could have their friends over and enjoy and we

love to just be able to have a dip in the pool when it's hot," Mrs Mato said.

"We stay at home a lot and the area is used all the time as a place of escape. You don't feel like you're in suburbia."

"We love being able to just get in for a dip and have that feeling like you're on holiday in Bali."

CONTACT Barrier Reef Pools, barrierreefpoolsperth.com.au.



The owners now feel as though they have a holiday retreat at home.



This Southern River home has a Balinese flavour in the backyard, with a 5.5m plunge pool and surrounds.



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