



# Thick footings link elements

■ Katie Lee

An old kidney-shaped pool sat in the centre of this Attadale backyard, the outdated feature not making the space terribly inviting for the new owners. So their top priority was its makeover so they could also thoroughly enjoy the river and city views behind it.

"The pool hadn't been looked after; it was green and uninviting so the space was never used," Barrier Reef Pools owner Brad Hilbert said.

The owners worked with a landscape designer on a simple yet stylish alfresco design which included a stepped timber-deck seating space, a patch of artificial turf and a laser-cut steel screen. Mr Hilbert outlined

ideas to incorporate a pool and spa combo.

"The owners originally only wanted a pool but they saw a spa we had done and asked how we could include that too," he said.

Barrier Reef Pools are one of the only fibreglass pool companies who use concrete footing in their designs and this extra pre-fabrication work allowed for a seamless integration between the pool and spa through a specially designed concrete sun bed.

The concrete footing was poured extra thick between the pool and spa to form a slightly raised sun bed that equally defines and links the waterways.

"The owners can now be sitting in the spa and roll over the sun bed for a dip in the pool."

**Fibreglass designs can achieve almost anything that a concrete medium can but for much less.**

The bed is enveloped in mosaic feature tiles and four water spouts spill water back into the pool as travertine pavers surrounding the pool fold over the edge.

The company's Monaco 8.5x3.8m pool was chosen for the streamlined space, complemented by the 2.6x2.6m Monaco spa installation.

Mr Hilbert said many people wrongly believed fibreglass designs couldn't be as versatile as concrete installations, however he said this was an outdated idea that came from decades ago when they were installed as they were sold.

"But with advances in technologies and processes, like our concrete footing, we are able to integrate water features and custom designs like the sun bed," he said, adding that fibreglass designs could achieve almost anything that a concrete medium could but for much less.

"The owners of this home were quoted around \$220,000 for the landscaping of their backyard including a concrete pool design but they saved around \$100,000 by choosing the fibreglass option and have achieved the same look."

"Another major factor for the owner deciding to go for a

fibreglass pool over concrete was the warranty; the fibreglass warranty is 35 years while most concrete is six years."

They now enjoy their backyard on a daily basis, taking in the river and city views against an effortlessly elegant foreground.

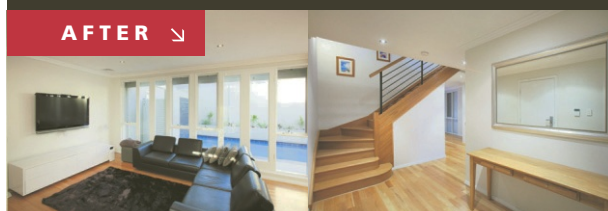
"It is a practical yet elegant area and the owners are absolutely stoked with the finished product," Mr Hilbert said.

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