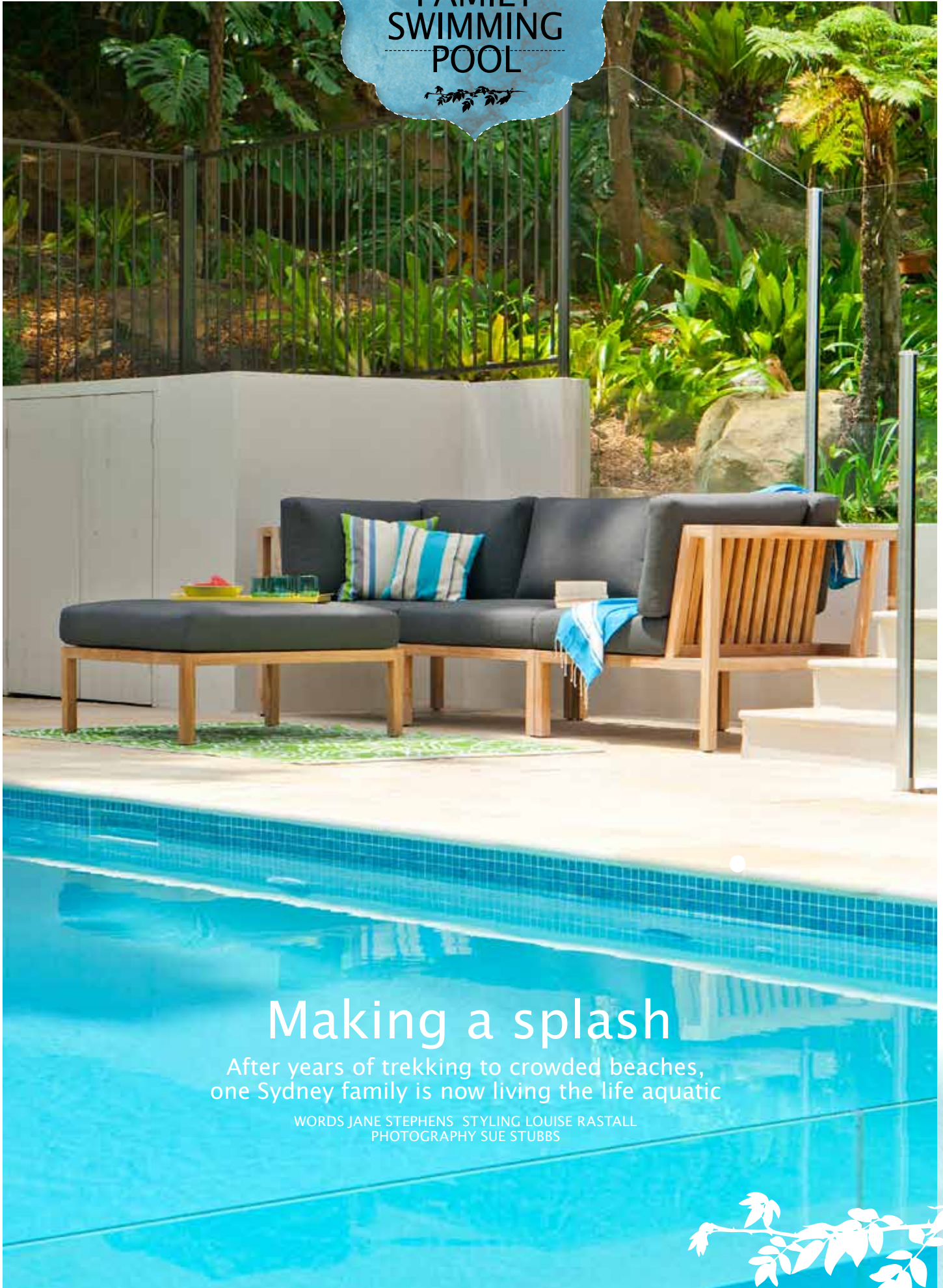


FAMILY SWIMMING POOL



Making a splash

After years of trekking to crowded beaches, one Sydney family is now living the life aquatic

WORDS JANE STEPHENS STYLING LOUISE RASTALL
PHOTOGRAPHY SUE STUBBS

(ON SOFA) 'A TUKI' STRIPED CUSHIONS, BLUE AND WHITE THROW, LANTERN, ALL TERRACE, TERRACE OUTDOOR LIVING.
COM.AU; (ON OTTOMAN) 'ICON' TRAY IN YELLOW, TAIT OUTDOOR, TAIT 'BIZ', 'BRIBE' BLUE GLASSES, TERRACE.
(OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) YELLOW PLANTER, OUTDOOR CUSHION, BOTH TAIT OUTDOOR, TAIT.BIZ





Inner glow
 Solar heating adds a month of swim time to both ends of the summer. Two underwater LED wall lights illuminate the pool after dark, creating a fluorescent strip of blue, while five low-voltage downlights on the exterior walls give the space a soft glow.

THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER and kids splashing in a pool is wonderful – unless the cacophony comes from the neighbours' backyard! "We spent five years listening to the fun next door," recalls homeowner Frank who, with his wife Kerryn, spent most of that time renovating their home without even considering installing a pool. However, after putting the finishing touches to the house, they were finally ready to get stuck into their neglected backyard. "Our kids are 10 and eight, so we knew a pool would be a real winner," says Frank.

Initially, the couple considered positioning the pool on one of the few flat, grassed areas of their home's steep block, but stormwater and sewerage pipes ran beneath the lawn, rendering it unsuitable. Each of the pool companies that quoted suggested positioning it at the back of the block instead, in line with their neighbours' swimming pool. The area receives direct sun for most of the day and the fence on that perimeter was already installed.

Premier Pools (premierpools.com.au) won the contract to build the new swimming pool and entertaining zone, and work began. To minimise the amount of excavation – a tricky and expensive part of any building project – the pool was designed to stand higher than the existing backyard, but that didn't eradicate all the problems, as the family discovered when the bobcat moved in. "Almost as soon as the digging started, they hit rock," recalls Frank. An excavator was required to create the rough shape of the 9m x 4m pool. Access could also have been an issue, but luckily the couple had already demolished an old, termite-infested garage, creating a clearway down the side of the house to the backyard. "Living without a garage for years became an unexpected blessing!" says Frank.

Six months on, the pool is ready for action. With a chic lounge area alongside, the space invites more time spent outdoors and long summer days splashing around, and the family couldn't be happier. >





Party on

An entertaining area was a priority and the family loves their 'Watego' modular sofa units from Eco Outdoor, which allow for different configurations depending on the occasion. Vibrant accessories such as striped cushions from Terrace and an outdoor rug from The Urban Balcony add a relaxed holiday feel.

After a literally rock start, the pool has become an **entertainment** hub for the family



Surface paradise

The coping around the pool is paved with 'Mintique' sandstone from Amber Tiles, providing a smooth, yet non-slip surface. The waterline tiles - Spanish glass in variegated blues from Premier Pools - mirror the water reflection. For the pool interior, Kerryn and Frank selected a Quartzon finish in White Beach.

A glass window built into the side of the pool reveals an ever-changing display. "It's fascinating watching our kids, Dexter and Iyy, swim and snorkel," explains Kerryn. "It's like a human-filled aquarium!"



Budget breakdown	
Pool installation (includes mosaic tiles and lights)	\$66,000
Excavation and cartage	\$20,000
Solar heating	\$4400
Glass and metal fencing	\$8000
'Mintique' pavers from Amber Tiles	\$5960
'Watego' three-piece modular units plus ottoman from Eco Outdoor	\$4395
Total	\$109,665

Fence me in
Due to the sloped site, the build required creative fencing. The Colorbond border fence was only 1.5m tall so bamboo added the required height (1.8m) and a tropical look. The metal railing has been coated with Metropolis Bronze Pearl by Dulux, while semi-frameless glass encloses the entertaining area.