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INTO THE blue

With the brief of creating a visually stunning entertaining and living space framed by the views of Pittwater in Sydney's Northern Beaches, Andrew Rothery from Crystal Pools talks about the project brief, challenges and materials used.

THE BRIEF

Due to the elevation of the property the homeowners wanted a partially raised pool that visually complemented the property when viewed from below. They wanted to feel as if they were floating above the coast – uninterrupted views and a seamless integration with the expansive backdrop.

They also requested an expansive decking that covered the entire level for entertaining and relaxing

and for all pool equipment to be concealed, so as not distracting from the view.

CONSIDERATIONS

The home had been recently renovated and the boatshed and surrounding pathways were existing structures. The backyard was not level and had minimal landscaping. An important consideration on this project was ensuring the water colour complemented the



colours of Pittwater – large bodies of water change colour regularly throughout the day so a multi-coloured glass mosaic was selected.

THE PROJECT

The pool was a new addition to this property, a geometric pool (8m x 3.5m) with a viewing ledge and an infinity edge, extras include spa jets, solar heating, saltwater chlorination, and night lighting.

CRYSTAL POOLS TOP TIPS

Winter is the best time to plan your pool. Getting started early means that you will have plenty of time to decide on a pool builder, get your documentation prepared and submitted to Council for approval.

Get as much advice as you can from friends, family and neighbours about their pool, what's good, what's not, what they would do differently if building again etc.

Create a priority list of what you want from your pool:

- **WHY YOU WANT A POOL:** kids, family, entertaining, fitness, etc.?
- **SEASONAL REQUIREMENTS:** summer or year round?
- **HOW IT NEEDS TO INTEGRATE WITH OTHER ELEMENTS ON YOUR PROPERTY:** alfresco entertaining, barbecue, lighting, landscape, views, visually merging with view, etc.



As the site for this pool was on a sloping block it required additional structural engineering to determine ground stability and identify structural reinforcement requirements. The site required additional reinforcement to support the overflow edge and catch pool to sustain peak water displacement generated by bathers.

Another key element when designing this infinity edge pool was to establish the sight line (overflow edge) and vertical position of the pool so the two bodies of water appear to merge.

Equipment is housed under the decking to obscure it from sight, this allows the pool area to remain clutter-free.

MATERIALS

The pool is fully tiled with multi-coloured glass mosaic tiles selected to complement the natural backdrop. The sunlight hitting the glass mosaics will reflect a range of colours blending seamlessly with the ocean backdrop.

Sandstone coping around the edge of the pool was selected to match the existing structures such as the retaining wall by the boat shed. Sydney sandstone was a natural choice originating from the nearby Hawkesbury region and the sandstone was dry sealed to protect it from the elements.

The timber decking covers the remainder of the level on this property and has been used to create privacy barriers to one side. This timberwork extends down all sides of the level creating a feature when viewed from Pittwater.

A stainless steel shower was installed on the pool level allowing the homeowners and their guests to rinse off after beachside and pool activities.



CHALLENGES

Sloping sites are always logically more complex requiring additional engineering but the greatest challenge on this project was lack of access – all materials and equipment, including the excavator had to be bought in waterside using a barge.

CRYSTAL POOLS

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