



Three in one

A well-integrated house and landscape design produces stunning results

WORDS: Karen Booth
PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond

In an unusual move, the owners of this newly built home engaged the services of a landscape designer well before they sat down for their first briefing with the architect. This gave the landscape designer an opportunity to come up with a garden design – one boasting a rich mix of natural stone and abundant vegetation – which influenced the structure and palette of materials used in the front façade of the house.

The landscape designer, Justine Carlile of Justine Carlile Landscape Design, explains how she approached the design: “The steep fall across the front of the property produced an opportunity to integrate a series of rock terraces using natural Castlemaine stone.

“The façade of the rendered brick house features a distinctive, tall, copper-clad entrance portico with the copper panels spreading across

the full width of the façade. The copper panels blend well with the burnt red ochre of the Castlemaine stone walls as well as the Corten steel used in the entrances to the front garden.”

There are three entrances to this property. The gateway that leads to the entrance of the home office is surrounded by solid Corten steel panels that lead to a bluestone path bordered on one side by dwarf magnolia and on the other by giant liriop.

“Surrounding the outside of the main central entrance to the house are raised planter beds with trunked cycads underplanted with dwarf white agapanthus,” says Justine. “The wide path leading to the entrance portico is crazy-paved in bluestone, which blends with the solid bluestone steps leading to the front door. This path is lined with a low-clipped hedge of English box with topiary spheres to enhance the formality

of this grand entrance.” This entrance also features natural stone in the walling and the pond-style water feature, which boasts a backdrop of black limestone.

The driveway, which drops rather quickly from street level, is the property’s third entrance and leads to the garage that sits beneath the house. Justine chose pebble-mix for the driveway with a border of bluestone pavers and a central pattern of oversized random bluestone steppers. On either side of the driveway are Castlemaine stone walls incorporating planter beds featuring a row of wild iris on one side and a row of ornamental pears underplanted with wild iris on the other.

In summing up, Justine says: “This front garden clearly demonstrates the value of integrating the house and landscape design – and how the extensive use of natural materials can enhance a design.”

MAIN PHOTO The pebble-mix driveway features a row of bluestone steppers that runs right down its centre.
TOP A path of bluestone crazy paving leads to the home’s grand and formal main entrance.
BOTTOM The detailing of the metal gate to the main entrance adds a delicate and distinctive touch.

