

Reflected glory

This water feature mirrors the surrounding landscape, adding a contemplative air

Water features have come a long way from being ornamental fountains tucked in amongst the shrubbery. The large reflection pool in this garden is more than just an accent piece, it is the central focus of the design.

The owner returned from holiday in South East Asia impressed with the prominence given to flowing water in Asian gardens, says landscape designer Damian Wendelborn. "He wanted a water garden, and because we had such a wide, open area to work with, everything was undertaken on a grand scale," Wendelborn says.

The 10m x 4m pool sits squarely in the centre of the garden and the water flows gently towards the outside entertaining area and kitchen. At night, this expanse of clear blue water reflects the lights inside the house. In the day, it lends the garden a quiet, peaceful and contemplative atmosphere.

The stone wall, made from volcanic rock, anchors the design and gives it a local flavour. Water flows from boxes set into the wall and are made from concrete drainage piping.

"As everything in the garden is on a larger scale than is usual for a garden, we used industrial rather than domestic materials for the reflection pool," Wendelborn says.

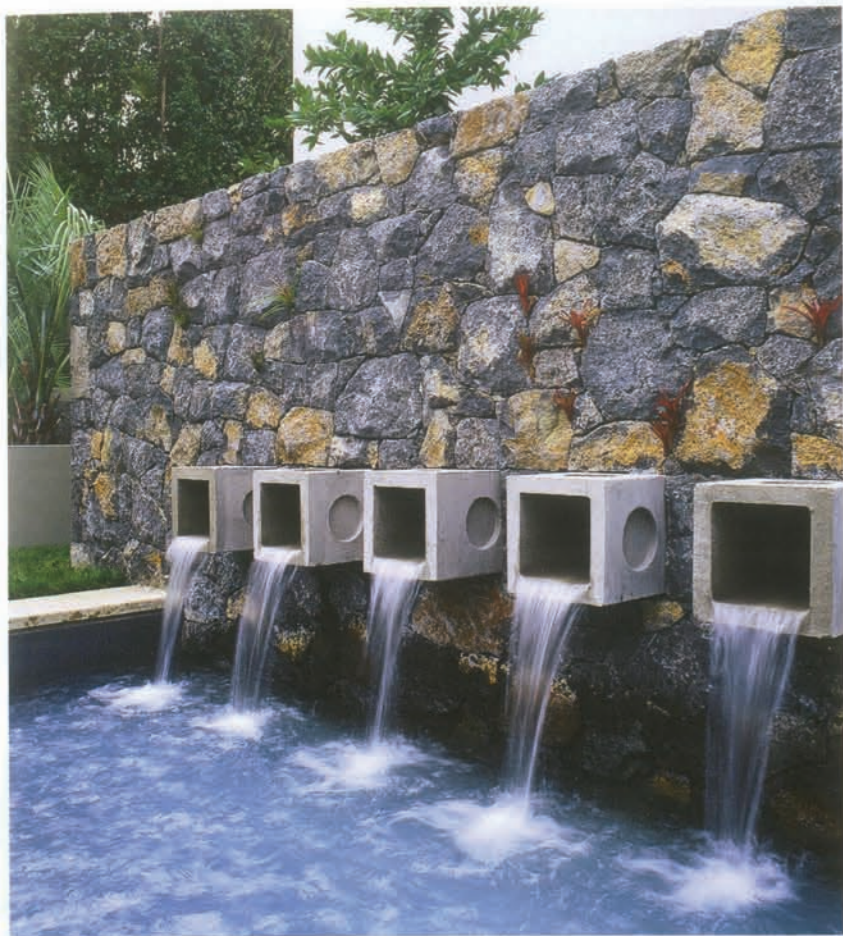
The three storey grey wall behind the fountain is part of the neighbour's house. To subdue the wall's starkness, Wendelborn planted Queensland kauri trees directly between the wall and the fountain. This Australian kauri grows faster than native kauri and the tree has a larger, more tropical leaf. Wendelborn says that in a decade, the leaves will significantly soften the wall's appearance.

To soften the rigid symmetry of the pond, Wendelborn selected tropical and subtropical plants. Along the walls are bromeliads, including tillandsia and beside the tablet of lawn there are beds of jelly palms and silver-edged furcraea.

Aside from its contemporary aesthetics Wendelborn says the design's minimal maintenance requirements suit a modern, busy lifestyle.



Right: The water feature in this garden dominates the design. At night, the water reflects the lights from the house. In the day, it helps give the garden a contemplative atmosphere.



Landscape designer: Damian Wendelborn GDSNZ, Urbanite Landscape Design (Auckland)

Pool designer: Urbanite Landscape Design

Pool surround: Coloured concrete by Heritage Landscapes, oxide from Peter Fell.

Stone walls: Stone of NZ

Planting: Damian Wendelborn, Urbanite Landscape Design, Jo Holden, Lush Gardens

Photography by Kallan MacLeod

Facing page: Everything in the garden is on a grand scale, including the row of industrial drainage blocks that have become the water chutes.

Left: Tropical and subtropical plants soften the symmetry of the square-edged reflecting pool.