



Patula by Weststyle at Menora.

Leisure flowing into lifestyle

○ KAYLEE CRANLEY

Making a splash amongst the wide range of homebuilding lifestyle inclusions, swimming pools add a touch of exclusivity and elegance to home design.

Weststyle Senior Designer Peter Romiti said the integration of a pool in your outdoor area changed its aesthetic, upgraded its ambience and increased its everyday use.

"The balance of a pool, hardscaping, softscaping and entertainment space is important to maximise the liveability and success of your outdoor area, and can increase the value of your home," he said.

According to Mr Romiti, there are many considerations to be made before deciding how and where to incorporate a pool in your property.

They range from budget, site sustainability, available space and construction type – like concrete or fibreglass – to surrounding amenities and lifestyle.

"All of these are important and, when done successfully, can result in a stunning addition to your backyard, catering for just the summer or year-round living," Mr Romiti said.

"To avoid any unexpected costs or budget blowouts, make sure you consider all extras such as landscaping, ongoing pool maintenance services, fencing, shading options, seating and other furniture, heating and any feature tiling.

"In regard to the site you're building on, see whether the block slopes or whether the ground is rocky, as these things will impact the cost of siteworks and may determine your pool's location.

"Other factors to take into account include the view from your home to the pool and backyard, as well as if the location you choose maximises sun exposure to help keep the water warm."

Zorzi Project Manager James Zorzi agreed that designing a pool suited to your lifestyle was key, however he said another crucial consideration was how it interacted with your dwelling.

"Whether it be an open pool cabana with a casual kitchenette or a built-in firepit area with seating spilling on to the pool for sunset entertaining, a pool area is never just the pool itself but also the spaces around it," he said.

"You don't want it to be isolated and not engaging in any meaningful way with your living areas."

When it comes to the style of swimming pool, Mr Romiti said there were myriad options catering to different clientele.

"For example, a young family may wish to include a large shallow

area for children as they learn to swim while a spa and plunge pool combination may suit a corporate or retired couple," he said.

"We have designed and installed many different pool styles in Weststyle homes, with each one bespoke to our clients.

"These include above-ground lap pools, in-ground plunge pools, pools custom formed to reflect unique architectural shapes, rooftop pools doubling as skylights, infinity edge and waterfall options, and ones including spa features or built-in drink coolers."

According to Mr Zorzi, infinity-edge pools have been a frequent point of discussion in design brief conversations, popular for the fact they enable incredible outlooks over the surrounding scenery.

"However, an important thing to note is – along with being more expensive to build – keeping these types of pools warm presents the main challenge, as the water is constantly cooling as it spills over the edge," he said. "Therefore, it's

important to have a robust heating system."

Mr Romiti said new technologies were constantly being released to market, providing new ways to live in the lap of luxury.

"Fibreglass has seen advancements in construction, meaning longer-lasting materials and bench or step design," he said.

"With concrete, anything is on the table, including more resort-style inclusions such as bubblers or custom-controlled jets to specifically control water movement for lighting effects.

"Home automation integration is another factor to consider; there are differing levels of integration from simple lighting control all the way up to chemical balance monetarisation.

"You can even provide the pool maintenance contractor access to the latter, so they can monitor levels remotely for the ultimate hands-off approach.

"Pool heating has also transitioned away from solar heating with the black tubing draped all over the roof to electric heat pump technology, much like an outdoor air-conditioning unit.

"The usage can then be offset with your photovoltaic (PV) solar power generation.

"The other benefit is more roof space for PV solar panels in lieu of the black piping on your roof."



Custom build by Zorzi at Dalkeith. Image: Jody D'Arcy.

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