



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
with Tim Goom

Landscaping Wish List - The Bells & Whistles!

Landscaping is still considered by some to be a luxury, but investing in your outdoors and creating beautiful functional spaces where you want to spend time is an investment in your lifestyle not just your property. Never has this been so apparent as now, when many of us have been forced to spend time at home due to the ongoing pandemic.

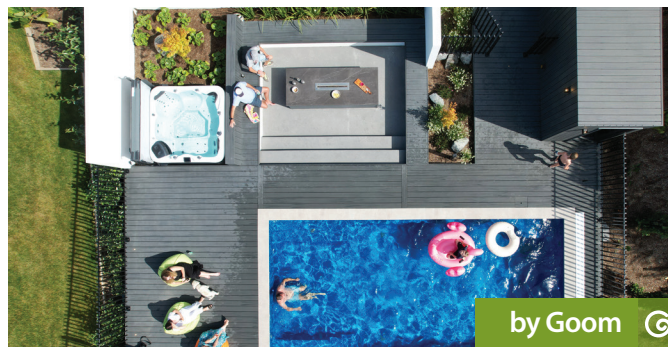
We all dream of how we would complete a project if money was no object. For most of us, this is not the reality but investing in even one big-ticket item in your landscaping project could be all it takes to elevate your outdoor area from ordinary to exceptional.

Louvres

Louvres are incredibly versatile in creating shelter when needed, both overhead and vertically. There is a wide range of styles available. Louvres which are manually moveable, can be surprisingly cost-effective but the gold-plated option of a fully automated retractable opening roof louvre system gives you so many more options - total shelter, partial shelter - or an unobstructed sky view - all at the push of a button.

Fireplaces

I consider having a heat source absolutely fundamental to getting the most out of your outdoor space year-round. Electric and gas heaters are very functional and efficient but nothing will draw visitors into your outdoor area like the crackling warmth of an outdoor fireplace. There are some stunning ready-made options. A fireplace can be built from



scratch but another wonderful option is to build in a pre-made fire (which will have carefully calibrated dimensions to ensure it operates efficiently) into a structure so it appears bespoke, surrounded with built-in seating and walls to help capture the heat. Fires can also be multipurpose, with features to not only keep you warm but also for cooking- including a pizza oven.

Outdoor Kitchens

We are seeing a huge demand for fully functioning outdoor kitchens. A built-in barbecue, oven, plumbed-in sink and fridge with a granite benchtop are on the wish list of many. Although this comes with a price tag, it is a wonderful way for ensuring you remain part of the action while entertaining your guests outdoors rather than traipsing back and forth from your indoor kitchen.

Outdoor Rooms

Again, outdoor rooms top the list for high-end landscape projects. An outdoor room can be fully enclosed or partially open to the elements. Although it might seem an extravagance, it is a much more cost-effective way of extending your indoor living than constructing an addition to your home. Having this separate space also creates a defined area that can serve a different purpose from your indoor entertaining space, a perfect home for a pool table, a big TV for watching sports, a built-in sound system, a bar or a kitchen and cosy seating. The options are endless.

Water

Pools, spas and water features all add the extra wow factor to your outdoor space. Pools and spas continue to be in hot demand post lockdowns when the advantages of having activities to occupy energetic kids became immediately obvious. As a result, the adage that you won't recover the cost of installing a pool when it comes time to sell your property no longer holds true. If a pool or spa isn't for you, then a water feature is a fantastic way for bringing the sounds of nature into your backyard and attracting more birdlife to your property.

To find out which of these options might transform your outdoors and how this might be achieved within your budget, call Goom Landscapes today on 0800 466 657.

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