

# the outdoor room

with jamie durie

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# Jamie's California dream

LIMITED ONLY BY HIS CREATIVITY AND A SOMETIMES-TRICKY TERRAIN,  
JAMIE HAS CRAFTED HIS VERY OWN OPEN-AIR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

PRODUCED BY *Jamie Durie* WORDS *Anna McCooe* PHOTOGRAPHY & STYLING *Tonya McCahon* MERCHANDISING *Brett Gathrid*



THIS PAGE: Enveloped by lush foliage, Jamie's poolside lounge is the ultimate chill-out zone. Jamie used Woolly Pockets (see page 60) to plant the walls with plants of varying texture. "We needed to maximise practical surfaces around the pool but we didn't want to sacrifice green space. Pushing the garden up the wall, where it can be admired, achieved this," says Jamie. OPPOSITE PAGE: Jamie steals a meditative moment in a wicker hanging chair. For similar, visit [urbanbalcony.com.au](http://urbanbalcony.com.au).

A photograph of a lush garden featuring a wooden pergola with a white canopy, a large wicker planter filled with greenery, a white fire pit with a fire burning inside, and a swimming pool. The garden is surrounded by dense foliage and a palm tree. The scene is set on a wooden deck.

*"This garden is home to  
ALL THE GREATEST IDEAS MY IMAGINATION CAN  
CONJURE. EVERY INFLUENCE HAS A PLACE." ~Jamie*



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**THIS PAGE:** 1 The rooftop garden takes advantage of the slope and the dining room structure to provide an intimate seating area with views. 2 Tillandsia, part of the bromeliad family, and Kalanchoe 'Flapjacks' are bundled in a palm husk.

3 Maintaining the original swirl of the swimming pool was a priority of Jamie's, taking four tilers four days to finish. 4 No surface is left untouched by nature.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** A Durie Design Gabion Bowl and Fire Pit add a robust element to the living space. Visit [duriedesign.com](http://duriedesign.com)



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For years, Jamie Durie has captured the imaginations of Australians with his passionate call to embrace nature and the outdoors. Now, as he finds himself on US soil, and faced with his most demanding client yet (himself), Jamie's ethos is put to the ultimate test. "This is the first garden I've designed for myself," says Jamie, sitting in his Los Angeles home, enveloped by the dramatic landscape of the Hollywood Hills. "I finally have an opportunity to practise what I preach."

Dreamlike and uplifting, Jamie's ultimate outdoor room links exotic plantings with spaces for entertaining, working, bathing and even sleeping. For Jamie, there's no facet of life that can't be enriched by the outdoors. His office is an open-air shed dappled in natural light. The bedroom is exposed to a private garden oasis and even a bath finds its place in a clandestine nook. "I grew up with the Australian philosophy of living outdoors," he says. "California is my home away from home and so I naturally wanted to bring that lifestyle with me."

As client and designer, Jamie was only limited by his imagination – and a seven-day window for completion between work commitments. With a rich pool of influences ranging from his Sri Lankan mother to years of travel and his garden heroes, Jamie was anything but 'short of ideas.' "I didn't so much distill >



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my inspiration as throw it all into a jambalaya and my team worked around the clock, breaking all sorts of barriers, to make it happen."

Jamie's bathroom and bedroom are inspired by Bali, where he spends a lot of his down time, while the lounge is a nod to Palm Springs style. His rooftop garden, above the dining room, pays homage to Renzo Piano's living roof at The California Academy of Sciences and the vertical gardens throughout were the result of Jamie's many talks with innovative French botanist Patrick Blanc.

His mid-century home also led Jamie to let a new muse out of the bottle: he's passionate about 1950s Californian Modernism. "I watched all the movies and read all the books," Jamie enthuses. "Architects like Albert Frey, Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright quickly became my new idols." From the ice-cream-parlor blue of the swimming pool to the 1950s tubular steel furniture in the living spaces, Jamie's effort to stay true to the home's heritage is, in fact, what binds this eclectic outdoor space together. The result is an outdoor room where life, style and nature truly merge into one. For Jamie, it's an experience he has only seen other people enjoy. "Now I know what it feels like to actually receive a garden like this. I really understand why so many people get emotional when I finish a garden for them!"



**THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT:**

George Nelson pendant lights bring 1950s Modernism to the dining table. Jamie picked these original ones up for \$60 each at the local Pasadena market. Available in Australia through [spenceandlyda.com.au](http://spenceandlyda.com.au) LEFT: A kitchen from Fuego is situated just a turn of the hips from plentiful fresh herbs in boxes. BELOW: Raised vegetable and herb beds step up the slope and provide fresh produce. RIGHT: The durable composite eco decking from Fiberon allowed Jamie to plant directly into the tops of the box beams. OPPOSITE PAGE: Above the dining room is an Escea gas fireplace that ensures cosy conversation. The white ceramic pots to the right were salvaged by Jamie from the original backyard.





*"Paying homage to the mid-century house  
AND THE AREA WAS IMPORTANT. IT'S ALL ABOUT CLEAN LINES, BOLD  
SHAPES AND A LESS-IS-MORE PHILOSOPHY" ~ Jamie*



## STICKS & STONES

**OUTDOOR OFFICE:** The outdoor studio is a collaboration between Modern Shed and Jamie. Visit [modernshed.com](http://modernshed.com). The vertical garden walls were created using Woolly Pockets, made from recycled plastic bottles. Available in Australia through [koskela.com.au](http://koskela.com.au) from \$62 each.

**POOL:** The pool, by LA company H2O, uses UV lights to kill bacteria, creating a true fresh water experience. For a similar system, go to [uwp.com.au](http://uwp.com.au). The water is heated with a solar system by Sunitech, [sunitech-power.com](http://sunitech-power.com). Italian glass mosaic tiles perfectly match the original pool. From \$340/square metre at [bisazza.com.au](http://bisazza.com.au).

**FIRE:** An Escea outdoor gas fireplace ensures outdoor comfort year round. Go to [escea.com.au](http://escea.com.au).  
**FURNITURE:** The tubular brass furniture is reproduced according to the designs of Walter Lamb. It's available from Design Within Reach, a company that ships to Australia via [myus.com](http://myus.com); see the whole range at [dwr.com](http://dwr.com).

**BATH:** Craftsman Steve Zimpel created the bath with recycled cedar from Jamie's original design.

**DECKING:** Composite decking from Fiberon ([fiberondecking.com](http://fiberondecking.com)) is made from 73 per cent recycled material and sawdust but with the same colour, grain and feel of timber. For a similar product in Australia, try [modwood.com.au](http://modwood.com.au).

**PAVING AND STONE:** Jamie used Indian white granite paving and stone. The paving is 1.9cm thick and sandblasted for a non-slip surface. For similar, try [ecooutdoor.com.au](http://ecooutdoor.com.au).



**THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT:** The recycled cedar tub, designed by Jamie, is his private outdoor shrine to the ritual of bathing, using bamboo and leafy palms as screening.

**LEFT:** Massive three-metre, specially engineered walls in the bedroom bring a new meaning to floral wallpaper: closed, they're a living green wall; open, they create a private nook off the bedroom.

**BELOW:** Sage-hued vandas are featured on the walls.

**RIGHT:** This chair is a prototype, originally designed by Jamie for Charlize Theron's garden in LA.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Room with a view – moveable green walls instantly transform Jamie's bedroom into an outdoor one. The bed is another of Jamie's original designs.





*Turquoise, aqua and timber* DAYBEDS WERE DESIGNED TO LINK THE ICE-CREAM-PALOUR BLUE POOL WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. IN DESIGN AND IN LIFE, YOU JUST HAVE TO USE COMMON SENSE" ~ Jamie



## WHAT THEY DID

In just one week, Jamie and his team gutted the garden and swimming pool, opened up the wall of his bedroom and transformed the construction site into a medley of indoor/outdoor spaces. The bedroom wall was replaced with two sliding gates that open onto a Balinese garden, while the curved swimming pool was resurfaced with glass mosaics in keeping with the mid-century architecture of the home. An outdoor office, complete with vertical garden walls, went up to act as Jamie's workspace. To deal with the hillside terrain, Jamie used the slope to create a terraced dining room, sheltered by a rooftop garden. He also devised a series of raised vegetable beds that step up with the slope to protect the home from California's infamous landslides and to supply fresh produce. An outdoor kitchen by Fuego was installed near the dining room while decks and paving were laid to mark out the living and dining spaces. 🌿