

Words **Sandra Killen**

lap of leisure

A Sunshine Coast home promotes the pool from back yard to front-and-centre.

You can't beat a sparkling blue swimming pool for that lazy summer vibe. And when it's right at your front door, it adds a very cool dimension. The moment they enter their Noosa hinterland home, Cheryl and Greg O'Neill are greeted by gently rippling water. A crystal clear 25m lap pool with black centre stripe and inviting deckchairs dominates the entry breezeway space.

The pool, a dramatic feature whatever the season, draws the eye to the enticing courtyard spaces beyond. "It's like we're permanently on holidays," Cheryl says. "We love the peace. It is a lovely change."

The couple bought their half-hectare block while holidaying on the Sunshine Coast about nine years ago. They've lived in ▶





space



the three-bedroom, three-bathroom house they had built on it for about three years, and now can't imagine living anywhere else. "We moved from a Sydney terrace house," Cheryl says. "We wanted something modern, spacious and pavilion-like that we could spread out in, but not Bahaines [in style]. We had been renovating old homes and wanted a lifestyle house, something totally different."

Lindy Atkin and Steve Guthrie of Bark Design Architects at nearby Noosa designed the house with a bedroom pavilion at one end and a two-bedroom guest wing at the other for when the O'Neills' two adult sons and their families visit. The brief called for functionality, simplicity and minimalism in form and method of construction that promoted easy, resort-style living.

A lofty, screened "Bahama room" inspired by outdoor spaces in the Bahamas, where Guthrie grew up, links to internal living spaces via 3m sliding stack-back doors. It catches breezes in summer and traps the sun in winter. "The room draws an ambiguous line between internal and external spaces to promote a strong connection with the outdoors," Guthrie says.

A second kitchen benchtop in this room caters for barbecues, and an outdoor shower off the O'Neills' bedroom ensuite is also well-used. Proof, if needed, that they're living the leisurely life they always wanted. ■



The slow lane ... (from above) Dining room meets Bahama room; the pool (opening pages) leads off the main entrance; the master bedroom's ensuite and outdoor shower area.

