

# creating tranquility

## SUBTROPICAL COUNTRY RETREAT

When an old schoolhouse amidst a backdrop of the rolling hills of Byron Bay has a makeover, a detached meditation studio and the surrounding grounds become a tranquil place of relaxation. This design called for an energetic flow of beauty and practicality which was achieved by connecting a new studio to an existing country home with meandering paths, also laid from driveway to house and wrapping around to the pool area.

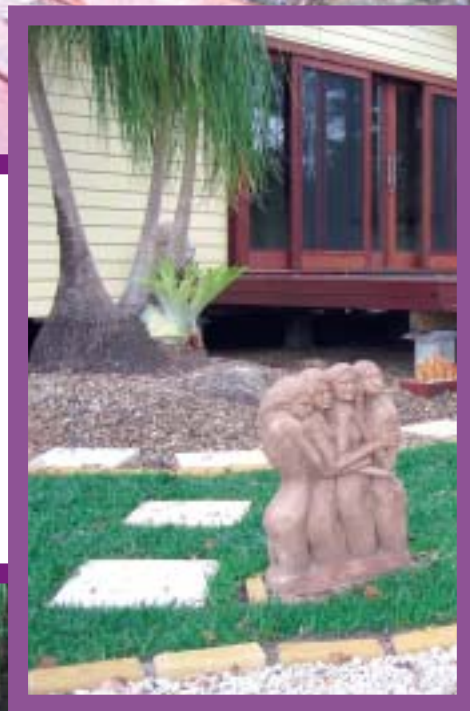
As the visitors enter along a tree lined driveway of mature tea-trees (*Melaleuca leucadendron*) and Buddha belly bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris*) they're welcomed by statues of Aphrodite and Ganesh. The gentle sound of running water in a creative water feature of rock, antique wood and stainless steel, harmonises with a relaxing combination of elements in amongst *Medinilla speciosa* and jade tree (*Crassula ovata*) at the entrance to the house. All along the curving paths there are features of welcome using the aged wood from the renovated house adorned with beach pebbles.

Next to the meditation studio there is a glimpse of an enclosed courtyard garden featuring *Rhododendron* 'Ivory Coast' and begonias, with a cushioned bamboo bench where one can rest in the cool of the day and contemplate the simple beauty of subtropical plants adorned by a statue of Shiva and Shakti.





The ongoing theme used in this design is of pebble pathways connecting lush tropical plantings of cordylines, *Anthurium* 'Small Talk' and ferns, mostly *Blechnum gibbum* 'Silver Lady', complemented by stainless steel downlights and wooden decks.



**Design and construction:**

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