



ZONING OUT

Think good quality, think practical, think multiple use, think maximum comfort, think long term... And you'll create an outside space with a soul that is second to none.

PHOTOS: ALAN CARVILLE

THE MALTESE are fortunate enough to enjoy their external areas for around nine months of the year. So these are often considered extensions to their indoors.

Given the hot climate, high humidity levels, exposure to the natural elements and frequent use, it makes sense to choose quality materials, which not only help to create a sleek and

sophisticated environment, but also improve the value of a property considerably. Investing in quality also helps in the long run to enjoy a space for much longer.

It is also important to plan the outdoor area in line with the interior, to be able to allocate a realistic budget and avoid having to opt for inferior finishes, which are likely to deteriorate, corrode, rust, or fade within a short span of time.

AVOID HAVING TO OPT FOR INFERIOR FINISHES, WHICH ARE LIKELY TO DETERIORATE, CORRODE, RUST, OR FADE WITHIN A SHORT SPAN OF TIME

Other considerations include what the area is to be used for – be it entertainment, lounging, or dining – and whether child-friendly measures need to be integrated. Appropriate shading also plays a major role, with many different options available for different uses.

For this project, appropriately named City Soul, the homeowners' brief was a concoction of warm spaces, accentuated by their love for natural wood, retro and distinct one-off pieces, while retaining maximum practicality.



THE HIGH ARTIFICIAL TURF SOFTLY TICKLES BARE FEET, WHILE ALSO FORMING THE CANVAS TO THE BENCH AND THE LOUNGING CHAIRS

This concept was seamlessly extended to the outdoor areas, where most of the entertaining usually happens, including also timber cladding on the main stairwell leading from the entrance to the outside space.

A sizeable deck was created, as well as a more intimate outdoor nook on the rooftop for relaxation.

The sleek and sophisticated result comes together through the use of high-quality materials and contemporary forms in shades of greys, blacks and blues.

The solid oak floorboards in the kitchen-living spaces smoothly transition into teak decking slats outdoors and finish off in the pool itself, forming one larger indoor-outdoor entertainment space.

Decking, particularly hardwood such as teak, instantly provides a natural, authentic look and enhances the space dramatically. Custom benches in the same teak crop up from the ground and are decked with coordinating cushions to match the two armchairs in black powder-coated aluminium frames and light grey water- and UV-resistant fabric seats.

Blue outdoor poufs provide extra seating and create a cosy lounging area for both summer and shoulder months. The stackable sun loungers are also in a black aluminium profile frame with industrial textured powder coating.



The dark grey upholstered seat and back incorporate antibacterial as well as antifungal properties and protection from abrasion and stains.

For the dining area, a teak top was also chosen for the table, accompanied by chairs in grey wicker and matt black powder-coated frames with light blue canvas cushions. These are beautifully set off against the heavier teak top and chunky look of the dining table.

Maximum shade is provided both on the dining and lounging area on the deck through square side-pole umbrellas that tilt and rotate 360°, creating unlimited shade possibilities. The canvas shade is made of durable, UV-resistant fabric.

The roof was the ideal spot to create a laid-back lounging area. This required a different setup due to the fact that it is higher than most of the surrounding properties and enjoys distant views of the sea. The glittering lights of the cityscape enhance the dramatic yet romantic ambiance of this dimly-lit outdoor cocoon.

Dark bamboo decking forms a lookout bench, which transforms into the steps leading to the hidden sunken Jacuzzi, also clad in the same material, creating a coherent look throughout. The high artificial turf softly tickles bare feet, while also forming the canvas to the bench and the lounging chairs. The central firepit warms up those chillier evenings, along with a couple of glasses of Amarone!

Project Architecture & Design: X,Y,Z Architecture & Design
Decking, stair and Jacuzzi cladding, fencing, outdoor furniture, artificial turf: Brands International Ltd ■