



Company profile

Smart Pools & Renovations
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Smart Pools & Renovations is a long-established, family-owned business specialising in the renovation and refurbishment of existing swimming pools, equipment and surrounds.

Established in 1985, Paddy Newman purchased the company in 1998 and has run it ever since. He believes in keeping a strong communication link with the client throughout the whole renovation process so they can actively watch their property transform into their ideal outdoor space.

"We listen to our clients first and foremost, then attempt to consolidate these ideas and requirements into a feasible package," he says. "This, in many cases, will require the addition of various other trades and professions though we are in the fortunate position of having built up many teams of professionals who are able to offer packages to suit."

Smart Pools has won numerous awards under Paddy's reign, with some of the most recent including SPASA gold and silver honours at both state and national levels.

Giving new life to around 70 properties each year, the company works all around Sydney's northern suburbs, from Wahroonga to Hunters Hill, the eastern suburbs, the inner city and west to Castle Hill, Baulkham Hills, Dural and the northern beaches.

Rewarding renovation

As good as new

This blossoming backyard was once old and neglected yet thanks to a collaborative effort by three groups of professionals, it is now a relaxing paradise with plenty of lush plantings and a contemporary tiled pool.

Smart Pools was originally called in to provide a quote for a renovation of the property's 30-year-old marble-sheen-lined swimming pool. The initial inspection revealed an extremely overgrown backyard full of out-of-control vegetation and a terrain of many different levels.

Smart Pools saw the potential to transform the whole area and called in both Anthea Dunlop, a landscape architect, and Ben Mahony, of Mahony Landscapes, to discuss a strategy to convert the mundane space into something exceptional.

Smart Pools believes that using as many brains as possible at the conceptual period of a project provides clients with an end result they can fully enjoy. Smart Pools and Mahony Landscapes also work as a team on a regular basis, providing a co-ordinated and cohesive approach to every project.

Smart Pools began by stripping back the old swimming pool and its six-inch blue waterline tiles. Rust and surface cracking was then

repaired before waterline tiling made from crystal glass was installed. The tiles incorporated handmade yin and yang symbols that were specially designed and made for the client.

The pool interior was to be finished in a Quartzon 'Ice Blue' tile, but after seeing two other projects Smart Pools had completed, the client opted for a Quartzon 'Royal Blue'; the depth of colour in the pool looks superb against the tortoise granite coping from Eco Outdoor.

All of the pool equipment was renewed using Austral pool filter and pumps, a Chemigem DM52 fully automatic pH and acid sanitiser, and an essential Polaris 280 pressure cleaner for a high leaf load area. The pool lighting includes LED WN series lights by Spa Electrics and a Sunlover Solar System to provide extended swimming seasons.

Mahony Landscapes then came into the picture, starting by clearing the entire yard and working off the landscape design by Anthea Dunlop.

Treated pine timber walls were laid and stained in a walnut colour to capture the aged Balinese feel the client wanted to achieve. A deck was also constructed from blackbutt decking board with extended steps that act as



a sitting platform for the turf area as well as an access way. It creates a large entertaining area, transforming what was once a leaf-scattered, wet and unused area into an inviting addition.

Tortoise granite from Eco Concepts was used in a modular pattern around the pool to help combat leaf stain from the towering gums above and to open up the area.

The plants were selected for their tropical feel; a mix of canopy heights gave the property both privacy and depth, with the overhanging canopies of the surrounding gums and angophoras creating a shaded backyard.

With the pool as the main focus, the clients now have a new outdoor extension promoting easy living in their own slice of paradise.

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Mahony Landscapes is a family-oriented business with experience and expertise in all aspects of landscape development. Operating in all areas of Sydney, the three brothers involved — Ben, Paul and Michael Mahony — have all played an invaluable role in the company's success.

As an established landscape company, Mahony Landscapes provides the complete package for all of their clientele, beginning with the creative stage of the design concept through to comprehensive project estimation to suit the required budget and then to the subsequent construction of the fully built landscape.

"Outdoor garden space should not only be beautiful, but functional as well, providing the client with an environment that stimulates and soothes the senses, adding value not only to your home, but essentially and most importantly to the quality of your daily life," Ben says.

The entire team, from landscape design through to landscape construction and maintenance, consists of only qualified professionals and tradesmen, making Mahony Landscapes the comprehensive outdoor solution. From the contemporary to the traditional, the elegant to the modern and minimal, Mahony Landscapes provides outdoor spaces to suit all needs.