

Oasis of calm

An authentic Japanese design has created a place of peace and an aura of tranquility

A custom designed sliding timber gate with a bamboo shoot carving gives access to the front garden.



“Forging a close connection with nature, this is an authentic Japanese garden”



WORDS: Karen Booth **PHOTOS:** Patrick Redmond

Forging a close connection with nature, this is an authentic Japanese garden – one that sits tucked behind the custom-designed timber gates of a modern Australian home in the popular Melbourne beachside suburb of Brighton.

The challenge for Motoyoshi (Moto) Kihara of Kihara Landscapes was to design and

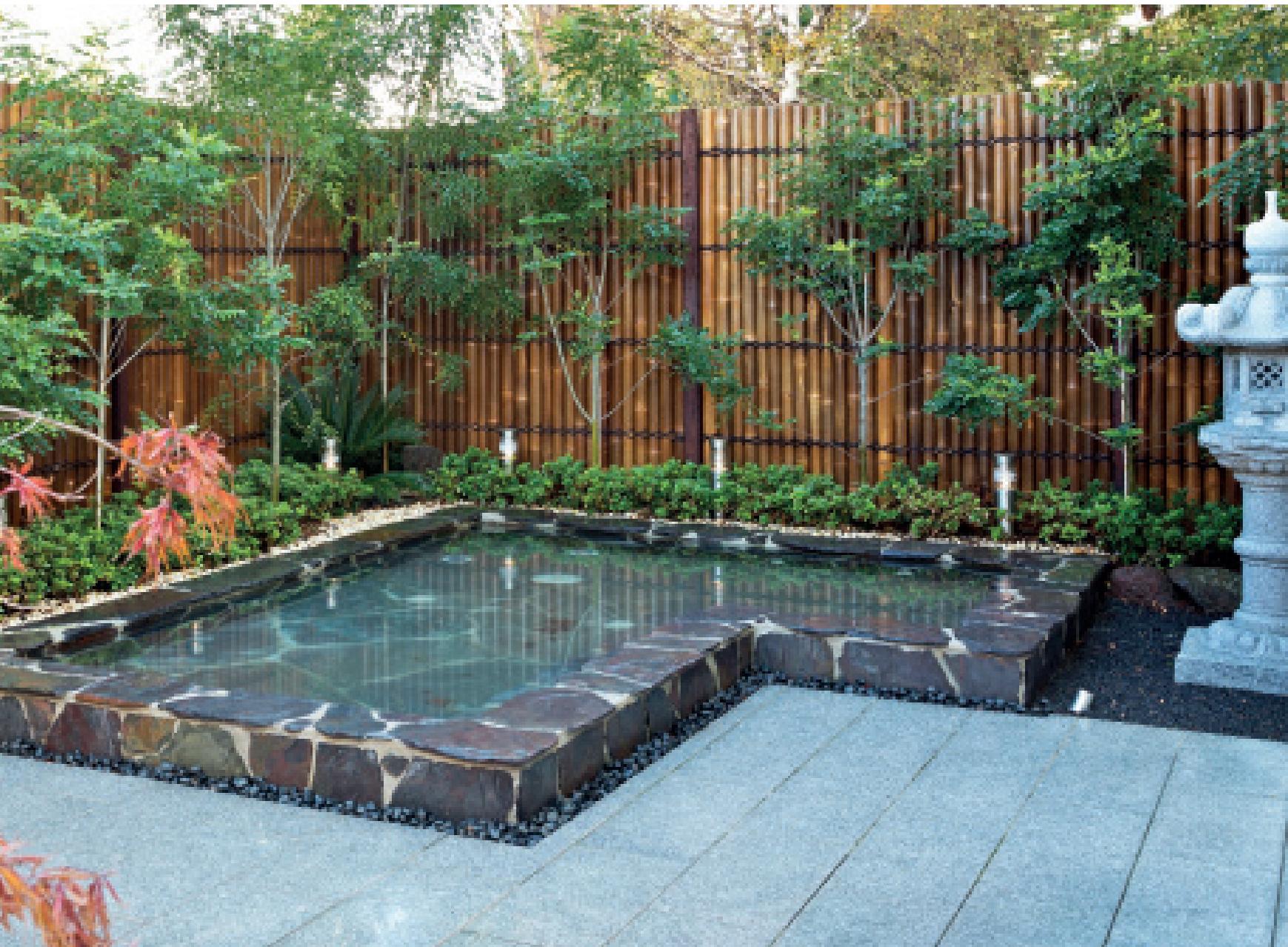
build a garden that would be perceived as truly Japanese yet still complement the look of a contemporary Australian home. The garden was to consist of three clearly defined areas – front, side and rear gardens – and, while it was important that all three areas be able to stand alone, they needed to be tied together as if one large space.

Entry to the front garden is via Japanese-style sliding timber gates. Handcrafted from Victorian ash timber by Zen Hisao of Zen's Studio, the gates feature a carving symbolic of a bamboo



ABOVE A stepping stone path leads from the front garden and along the side into the backyard.

LEFT A water feature fed by a bamboo spout contributes the calming sound of moving water.



ABOVE The old spa pool was transformed into a Japanese hot spring-style outdoor bath.

RIGHT A pagoda sits in the front garden atop mondo grass surrounded by raked pebbles.

FAR RIGHT The landscape is replete with authentic touches which contribute to the charm.

