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Backyard potential maximised

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Springgreen Landscapes has taken out the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers (AILDM) Best in Category and Gold award for a residential landscape design over 150sqm.

The 2017 win arrived as a result of the outcome of a Cottesloe landscape design project.

Sitting approximately 1km from the ocean, the property was built in 1909. The complex timber bungalow with Edwardian weatherboard was old, dated and needed a serious facelift.

The client approached Springgreen Landscapes to create a master plan to ultimately create a seamless flow from the beautifully renovated front area to the modern rear building.

The clients also wanted to enjoy the outdoor space with a child-friendly zone that allowed the owner to freely do their own gardening.

According to Springgreen Landscapes Principal and Landscape Designer Jean-Clement Printemps, the project presented an array of design opportunities and challenges.

“Providing the clients with a good landscape master plan helped them to visualise the garden,” Mr Printemps told *New Homes*.

“The first challenge was dealing with a coastal area, as this house was second-line salt protected by several buildings.

“We had to find the right type of plants to suit this climate, and poor-quality soil was fixed with new organic mix soil to suit the planting schemes.”



Mediterranean plant species were the best option for the conditions, with a mix of native, contrasting foliage, texture and flowers specially chosen for their vibrant colours and aesthetic look.

The project included all hardscape materials such as paving, fence specifications, timber decking, pool colour and more.

“The clients were very happy with the result and the project did proceed without any major hiccups,” Mr Printemps said.

“I project-managed the job, which is essential if you want a project to meet budget and be implemented as per the design.”

Mr Printemps said consistent communication with the clients from design commencement to project completion was a key factor in its overall success.

“The whole concept met the client’s requirements,” he said.

“Winning the award, the client was more than happy, and so was I.”

While the garden will age with style and class, it carries exciting potential for the future, when one of the trees grows big enough to place a swing and cubby house on.

“It is very important as a landscape designer to be involved in all stages of the project beyond the initial design development, otherwise there is the risk the design intent will be lost and/or the project will not reach its maximum potential,” Mr Printemps said.