The Block's eco-friendly tree change

As seen in POOL&SPA

Aussie favourite reality show *The Block* ditched city life in 2022 and headed for a tree change. Relocating to Gisborne in the Macedon Ranges, the show positioned contestants on 10-acre blocks and tasked them with planning and landscaping more than 700m² of land for the off-grid, seven-star energy rated homes, meaning sustainability was a factor in all design specs.

An ambitious resort-style design saw House 1 contestants Sarah Jane and Tom declared winners of the Landscaping Week challenge, thanks to a little help from award winning pool builder, Daniel Cutugno of Horizon Pools.

The project is a stunning example of how indoor and outdoor spaces can seamlessly blend to create an aesthetic throughline that gives a luxury feel across the entire property.

"When Tom and Sarah-Jane asked us to construct a setting worthy of the scale of the interior, the challenge was to match their giant interiors and glorious alfresco areas with a breathtaking pool view where the scale and serenity of the surrounding countryside could fully be appreciated," Daniel said.

While the project looks extravagant, it's also eco-friendly, a focus that saw it take home gold in the Sustainable Project category at the 2023 SPASA Awards of Excellence.

"With the properties being off grid, it was important to utilise energy efficient pool equipment to achieve energy and water efficiencies. We opted for cartridge filters, a variable speed pump, an automatic dosing system and a pool cover that could deliver on those goals."

Daniel also made recommendations to re-orient the pool from the original design. The result is a better connection between indoors and out, maximising the stunning view across the Macedon Ranges and delivering a useable and beautiful space that was sure to appeal to buyers.

The build was challenging, thanks to limited access, difficult weather conditions and tight time constraints, but Horizon was up to the challenge. This pool not only holds the record as the largest ever installed on *The Block*, but host Scott Cam also declared it "the best fibreglass pool" he's ever seen.

SPECIFICATIONS

Fibreglass Pool: Aqua Technics I Style — Valentina I Colour — Platinum I Size — 8.4 x 4.4 meters
Equipment: Hendon
Pool Cover: Sunbather
Lighting: Spa Electrics
Coping: Natural Stone
Pool Surrounds: Exposed Aggregate
Fence: Blue Croc

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