



STRIKE A POSE

If you're into yoga, could you imagine a more glorious spot to practise your poses? Beneath the canopy of a substantial tree, surrounded by plants, the breeze on your back — heaven! While we tend to picture decks flowing from the back of the house, that certainly doesn't have to be the case. You can tuck a deck in the back corner of your backyard, creating a destination point and putting the space you have to good use. Bayon Gardens chose this corner to capitalise on the shade provided by the beautiful established fig tree. While the deck is used for yoga, that's not its only purpose. It's a place to chill — reading a book while reclining on cushions or savouring some wine and cheese, snuggled into beanbags. And it's a kids' zone, too. It's a place for children's tea parties and singing/dancing/comedy shows. The deck was built using spotted gum, an Australian hardwood with a lovely wavy grain. This timber was chosen for its durability and to tie the deck back to the alfresco area's spotted gum ceiling and the interior of the house, where spotted gum also features. This part of the garden is about connecting to nature, with the new planting carefully chosen to complement the existing fig and gum trees. bayongardens.com.au

PLAN AHEAD

Choosing your deck's location comes first: should it extend from the house or stand alone? Next, consider size. If you don't have kids who need lots of lawn, having a big deck that cuts into your garden won't be a problem. Now think about how you want to use your deck. Do you want to dine and barbecue on it? Do you need built-in seating? Now you can consider design and materials.