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# THE INSIDE STORY

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FEB 2021

“Having admired Caesarstone for years,  
I’m so excited to bring it into the outdoors!”

*Adam Robinson*

Award-winning Landscape Designer

# Adam Robinson Q&A



Our latest Brand Ambassador answers all the burning questions in this exclusive Inside Story Q&A!

**Occupation:** Horticulturist, Landscape Designer and Principal, Adam Robinson Design.

**Business name:** Adam Robinson Design

### **Summary of business:**

Adam Robinson Design is one of Australia's pre-eminent landscape designer studios led by Adam Robinson. Adam and his team are experts in interpreting a client's brief, delivering a design with an integrity and authenticity that expresses understanding what the client is after.

The company motto is 'Better Garden, Bigger Life', indicating a strong view that a well-designed space adds, not only extra market value to a home, but it also enhances the quality of time spent at home and can improve overall lifestyle.

### **Favourite food?**

BBQ. I love the ritual of entertaining casually with friend and family. Healthy eating and yummy salads.

### **Pets?**

Paige, a French Bull Dog - she's such a cutie!

### **What are you listening to/reading these days?**

Spotify playlist: Indie Pop

### **What attracted you to working with the Caesarstone brand?**

I've always liked Caesarstone's indoor products and was so happy that finally the beauty and luxury of Caesarstone was available for the outdoors - to bridge the boundary between the interior and exterior with one unifying material. The new Caesarstone Outdoor Collection stands out against other outdoor materials because of its new advanced patented technology that has been proven to withstand UV rays, meaning its durability makes it suitable for complete outdoor use. Also, the three colour ways provide ample opportunity for whatever look will best suit the style of the outdoor project.

### **Tell us about what's happening in the alfresco space?**

Big ideas for Small Spaces!

Even if you have a small balcony or courtyard, people want maximum lifestyle out of them. A fantastic challenge for designers to get super creative and be very clever. Integration of smart ways to make these smaller spaces feel larger and just as lush as a more generous garden.

Habitat Gardens. People are becoming more mindful about encouraging wildlife visitors to their garden - especially after recent environmental disasters such as last year's horrendous bushfires. Creating a haven for local creatures is definitely on the rise. Local nurseries are supporting this trend with guidance on plant choices. People are finding great joy in sitting in their garden's watching the bees, butterflies and birds as a way of de-stressing from busy urban living.

### **What outdoor design trends do you see coming through in 2021?**

Simple, smart monochromatic gardens are becoming more popular. Once upon a time busy prints were all over the furnishings in outdoor spaces. Trends have more recently moved to a pared-back, sophisticated, one-colour materials and furnishings palette using either white, grey, black or earthy terracotta, sienna and concrete tones.

High tech and modern built-in outdoor kitchens and entertaining areas, more highly decorative materials and finishing touches in the outdoor space. And furnishings are getting more and more luxurious for the outside! Also, decorative tiling used outdoors.

### **Tell us about one of your more unusual projects?**

I think it would be a rooftop in Rozelle I designed for clients who were downsizing.

Living with a garden was part of the quality of lifestyle for this couple, so they didn't want a home without a garden at all. Fortunately, this new property gives them the best of both worlds. We designed them a rooftop garden where they have the enjoyment of a garden, the therapeutic satisfaction of caring and nurturing plants, yet without the stress of high maintenance.

The garden was already divided into defined spaces. It was our role to determine the specific uses of these areas and create a relaxed, lived-in feeling. We pulled up the large expanse of lawn as this wasn't the most interesting, practical or environmentally friendly application for a rooftop. Not very easy access for a lawnmower either! Modern, comfortable furniture, and a variety of contemporary pots and screens were selected to create warmth and interest, as if they had been collected over time. It was important to steer clear of the sparse aesthetics that many of Sydney's new developments seem to have.



Rooftops can be harsh, hot environments and we always strive to create a lush oasis with plenty of green-life to make the space attractive and inviting – a cool, relaxing retreat. A huge, oversized, bubbling water bowl evokes a feeling of freshness and tranquillity and creates a strong anchor for the space. Not only pleasing to the eye, the sound of gurgling water is instantly soothing. An informal path was constructed from recycled railway sleepers with a sensory planting of Thyme in-between which releases a beautiful scent when you brush past.



### **Tell us about one of your favourite projects?**

One of my favourite projects would definitely be a small, but super functional and extremely stylish outdoor room in Balmain. It was challenging to create an atmosphere of private seclusion with a real sense of being able to get away from it all in a tranquil, lush green oasis. I think we managed to do that with great success!

What existed before was pretty much an open space from the back door of the house to the garage door, part of it decked, part lawn and part paved. The cars were parked in the garden. We came up with a great solution for a design that still accommodates the cars, however you don't really see them anymore as they are concealed now thanks to some very smart decorative metal sliding screens that separate the carport area from the rest and recreation zone.

The courtyard garden is now a space for living and enjoyment with large format steppers made of outdoor timber-look plank tiles which are softened with plantings of Mondo Grass in between. The timber tile cleverly continue the timber floor of the interior through to the exterior space. L-shaped built-in bench seating is a generous amount of seating for quite a few friends to gather and celebrate different occasions, making the most of limited space.

The addition of extra armchairs and occasional tables create a comfortable conversation corner. Gorgeous patterned tiles peep out from beneath the benches for some unexpected colour and fun.

All the boundary walls were painted a dark gray colour to help the plants to really pop and evoke a cosy ambience. A large port-hole mirror suspended on the wall in the dining area bounces light and reflection around. The selection of green foliage plants was based on a relaxed and laid-back approach but with loads of texture and movement, juxtaposed with the two cloud topiaries for some subtle disruption and theatre.

The tonal colours in the garden keep the space feeling serene and soft, and in combination with the patterned tiles under the benches and the cloud trees create a sophisticated, yet playful garden that feels really great to be in.

### **Who is your biggest inspiration and why?**

Sarah Wilson - Love that she's dedicated her life to educating us about climate change, that she's so open about her vulnerabilities, she inspires me to be better person. I adore her books and can always go back and refer to them like life text books!

### **What would you most like to tell yourself at age 13?**

I approve of you, follow your heart, be creative, don't listen to everything you hear, learn from our elders.