

AFTER

MAKING AN ENTRANCE

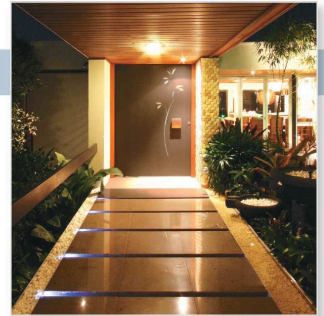
WORDS JEMMA PEARSON



BEFORE



The wife wanted a Balinese influence and the husband wanted it to look grand



When local designer Mark Gacesa was commissioned to completely revitalise a Buderim home he knew he had to start with a statement entrance. "The house won an architecture award when it was built in the mid '70s," says Mark, so he was keen to retain the strength of the original architecture. But the brief from the client was a tough one. "The wife wanted a Balinese influence and the husband

wanted it to look grand," says Mark. "So I have tried to create a five-star hotel entrance."

It looks like he has succeeded. "We took off the original front doors – it was double cedar so we put in a massive full-width door," the designer says. "It has heaps more drama."

The real drama starts at the tropically inspired front gates and continues up the curved driveway, where a huge palm tree had to be removed. About

25 pine trees and other plants also had to go to make way for the new drive, says Mark, who adds, "They had the place nicely sculptured, but it wasn't right for the clients' vision."

Just off the front entrance is a beautiful courtyard with sofa chaise built into a curving rock garden, but it is the stunning woven sandstone feature wall that we reckon will stop visitors in their tracks.