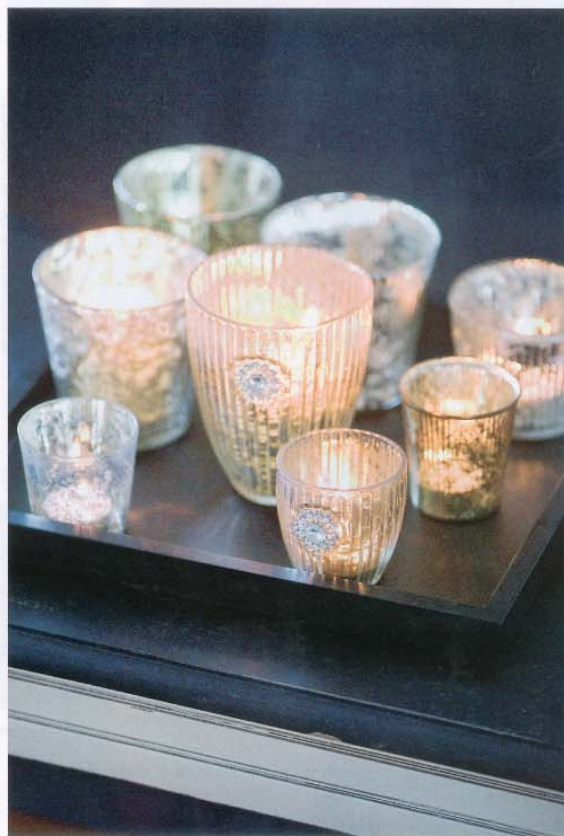




**ABOVE:** Teak is timeless, and this setting from Jati is great for entertaining or simply enjoying a quiet meal alone.

**RIGHT:** When dusk falls, these tea lights from Horgans are a totally elegant option to dine by.

**BELOW:** Salads are a staple dish in summer, so having a gorgeous salad bowl and set of servers at hand means you're always prepared. These bamboo ones are from SunnyLIFE. Bowl \$59.95, salad servers \$19.95.



**BUDGET BUY**



**ABOVE:** If you're more of a picnic person, it's important you have the perfect containers to keep food crisp and ready to go. This Fit 'n Fresh range is from Howards Storage World, from \$9.95.

**RIGHT:** For a totally versatile way to serve food, check out these cotton canvas bowls from Ogilvies Designs – they're reversible and come in four different colours. Priced from \$22.50.



**ABOVE:** Make sure all your guests have somewhere comfy to sit with these Watsons floor cushions from SunnyLIFE, \$79.95.

# MAKING A *splash*

For those fortunate enough to have a swimming pool, getting that relaxed waterside feel is essential.

If you have people over on a regular basis and want to create a gorgeous entertaining spot, or perhaps your own private oasis, the way you decorate the space around the pool can completely transform its ambience. And you don't have to go all-out and do a major overhaul, just a few little touches can breathe new life into it. The easiest and cheapest way to make a change is to simply rearrange the furniture and add some new cushions for a cosy feel. Also, a collection of statues and potted plants is great for creating a tropical vibe, or for something a little more striking, put screens up around different corners for a sense of intimacy – plus, they give extra privacy.

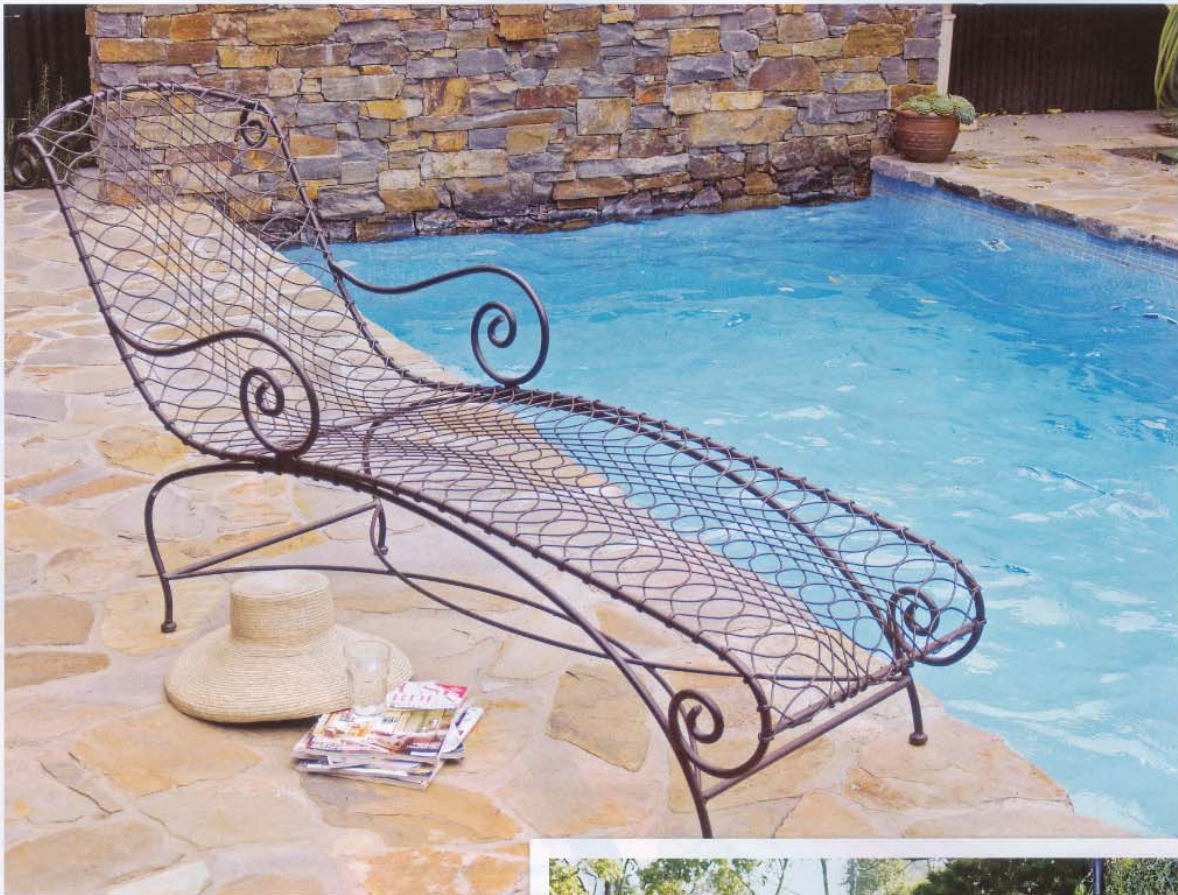
Lighting is important for setting the mood too. Simple garden lights or a string of lanterns complement your standard lighting perfectly. And if you want something really special, a collection of floating candles on the water looks utterly amazing.

You don't often think of it, but storage is essential for around the pool. You need a place to keep towels, sunscreen and kids' toys so they're not scattered everywhere. While a sturdy box at the gate may suffice, ones that hang from the safety fence are ultimately more convenient. ■



**ABOVE:** Team blue and white accessories with a rattan chair to create a spot with a seaside feel. The Ticking Box cushion, W cushion, Bhandini European pillowcase and Denim Alpine throw are all from Wallace Cotton.

**LEFT:** Get yourself a vintage-style deckchair to lounge away the hours in the sun, like this one in 'classic stripe' with a Scandinavian cushion – from SunnyLIFE.



**TOP:** For a classic piece of furniture you'll never have to move from the water's edge, consider the Jardin chaise, available exclusively from Domo Collections.

**ABOVE:** This floral towel from SunnyLIFE, \$49.95, is a gorgeous way to get in the summer mood.

**RIGHT:** Whether you're taking a dip or just enjoying being poolside, this Bay Islands swing from Kmart is a great way to relax.

BUDGET BUY

**RIGHT:** Set the dreamy mood with a row of lanterns by the water's edge. These Punto ones from Freedom are \$19.95 each.

**BELOW:** Create your own shady hideaway with this eye-catching multi-stripe beach umbrella from SunnyLIFE, \$79.95.



**BELOW:** When you come out of the water, there's nothing like wrapping yourself up in a big luxury towel, like this Lolly Bag design from Terry Rich.



**LEFT:** These Deauville loungers from Cotswold Furniture are perfect for relaxing – plus, they're movable so you can always bask in full sun.