



Natural assets

A generously sized sundeck is a great way to extend living space into the garden, especially if there is a shady tree to offer protection from the summer sun. This Melbourne garden (above) is blessed with a north-facing aspect and a large willow myrtle, which landscape designer Scott Leung of Eckersley Garden Architecture has made the focal point of the design. He's softened the angularity of the decking by using fine-leaved foliage, in the form of *Lomandra longifolia* 'Tanika', as edging. The large exposed aggregate pavers were poured onsite and seeded with decorative pebbles. The table is made of lightweight steel with a perspex top and is teamed with white Panton chairs, chosen because they don't block the view of the garden beyond. >

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DECKED OUT

Many people choose to stain, varnish or oil their timber decking for a smooth and sleek look and to enhance the timber's durability. But decking finishes need regular recoating, preferably with a bristled brush to ensure a more even, longer-lasting finish. The job has just become a whole lot easier with the release of the Ezee Deck Brush by Sikken, a quality bristle brush with an extra-long handle and angled head that allows you to brush the finishes standing up, rather than on your hands and knees. www.tenaru.com.au.