



Scene: Well sited for sun and frost-free, the developing garden will need plants that can withstand salt-laden air but will also suit warm-climate plants such as bromeliads and succulents.



Dark: (Top) the strong sunlight of the coastal site intensifies the near-black foliage of Aeonium 'Schwarzkopf'. (Above) The lavender flowers of Neoregelia are bright but insignificant compared to the foliage.



Rolling stones: Looking as if they've been there forever, the large rocks in this serene corner with *Scleranthus biflorus* and *Myosotidium hortensa* had a bit of an accident involving a double-glazed window.

Home makeover

A Whitby couple is thrilled by the results after a nightmare start to plans for a dream home.

TAKING your work home at the end of the day is supposed to be bad for your health, but Tony and Trish Lloyd, owners of house-building company Jigsaw management, are looking remarkably fit and happy with their new home and garden at Whitby, which has been part of their work for the past three years.

They started the house about three years ago and moved in about two years ago when their rented home was sold under them.

"We only needed about three months to finish but nobody would rent us a house for three months round here so we moved in," Tony says.

"The top windows weren't in, we didn't have gib, we didn't have power, we had one temporary toilet down below: we were sort of camping," he says.

The dust and other building fallout was such that each morning after the children

left for school Trish would strip the beds and head to the laundromat to wash the sheets, then come home to remake the beds.

"Because we were running on temporary power, every time we boiled the jug it would trip the power, all the builders would stop. It wasn't much fun. It was the first of December, it rained and it was coming up to Christmas as well," Tony says.

Tony and Trish have done a large amount of the work on the house themselves, including installing the American maple kitchen fittings for which Tony went to the United States to select the wood, have finished and sent home in flatpaks.

"About three months after we moved in and we had power and things, the kitchen was finally in. I was putting drawer fronts and things on and I just threw my teddy - I'd had enough. It was time to give up and get somebody else in," he says.

There are still a few things to be done but Tony says it was a "great build".

"We had a fantastic architect in Peter Robotham. He was just marvellous to work with - we basically sat down with him at the beginning of the year and said 'we're not in any hurry to design'. It took us

about eight or nine months to come up with what we wanted.

"I'd had a 10-hour stopover in Sydney and I was reading a magazine and I saw a photo of a house that I really liked. I didn't steal the magazine - I bought a camera and took a photograph of it and showed him that," Tony says.

While Tony and Trish know a thing or two about building and finishing houses, gardens are not such familiar territory and they were keen to have something very special for this project.

"We really don't know a lot about gardens but we know what we like and it was really interesting because the architect had done a landscape plan but hadn't done a garden planting plan."

They hitched up a trailer, packed the family and headed for the local nursery to choose their plants, but having walked up and down the rows in search of inspiration they clambered back into the car and towed their empty trailer home.

As they left, however, Trish picked up a card for Oasis Garden Design owner, Alison Bayly, from the counter.

"We got her round and she was just

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE



Entry: The strong lines of the wooden entry path, with its wide stone-filled edges, demanded constraint in the planting so it has been limited to four striking potted specimens, containing Aeonium 'Schwarzkopf' by the steps and bronze and silver Astelia 'Westland' at the door.

Pictures: STEPHEN WILSON