

Inspired by Nature

John Barrett's water features are dramatic creations that duplicate natural settings found along mountain streams or tranquil brooks

Text and photographs by ALEX CREMER



THE CHILDHOOD memories of John Barrett are filled with crisp mountain air, dramatic landscapes and the soothing sounds of water spilling over rocky river beds. It is this natural beauty he experienced as a child in New Zealand that he incorporates into his creations.

John, who now lives in Hout Bay and owns the company Garden Wizard, specialises in the design and construction of water features that embrace all the elements of nature. "My first attempt, done at the

age of 15 on the Reef, was a sunken garden with a small pond, where I avoided formal patterns and opted for rocks and boulders, plants and pathways, supplemented by a small aquatic feature. The result was a lovely, restful setting like one often found along a little brook."

His formal training in the film world might seem to be far removed from his present occupation, but that is where he learned to perfect the creation of images, even illusions. This relates well to water features, where the aim is to dupli-

