

Simple lines defy intricate design detail

■ John Videnieks

The skill required to build a complex home to a client's detailed specifications is on impressive display in this Humphrey Homes project in South Perth.

Set on, and partly within, a hillside overlooking the trees and tiled roofs of the sought-after suburb, this is a work of art in a complementary background.

"It's over three levels," company principal Dean Humphrey said. "It begins with a big undercroft with laundry and garage; a lift takes you to the ground level."

Here a study with its own entry door serves as a place to interview clients. There is a gym/living room, two guest rooms and an indoor-outdoor terrace. Upstairs is the central living area with open-plan kitchen, dining area, alfresco balcony and main suite.

The complexity of the project may well be summed up in, of all things, the kitchen's island bench. It represents, on a smaller scale, the kind of detail required in the construction.

"This has to be the most complicated benchtop ever designed in the history of human beings," Mr Humphrey joked. "The main feature is the 1.2m overhang. We couldn't find an engineer or stone benchtop maker to design it so we did it ourselves.

"We designed a special framework to support it, then took the owner's concept of what he wanted in the shape of the top and our in-house architect and I developed it. It was a project in itself.

"Every side has an angle; so every corner is a compound mitre. There is nothing standard in it anywhere."

The modernist design of crisp lines, travertine fascia, flat roof and aluminium-framed double glazing sits surprisingly well



A 1.2m overhang meant the stonebench needed an individual, complicated design.

among its more traditional neighbours.

It even acknowledges a link with a past of more fundamental engineering in the shape of two old reclaimed bridge pillars which rise in their worn and weathered glory from the ground-level floor to the top-level ceiling.

There is a fireplace on the upper level, surrounded by travertine, which sits in a wall of glass. The blonde tones of the blackbutt floor complete a

delicate colour scheme while a curved bulkhead begins in the kitchen and straightens as it reaches the balcony.

The main suite, with its high ceiling, is spacious and has an impressive ensuite bathroom, entered via a huge cavity slider of translucent glass framed in wood. This full-height, easy-to-manoeuvre door opens to a room fitted out to the highest specifications.

An egg-shaped bath has a free-standing mixer; the shower

recess is detailed in shimmering glass tiles and twin vanities sit on a marble-topped bench in harmony with the profile of the bath. A smaller slider leads to a walk-in robe of ample proportions.

It is a big house on just over 500sqm of a very sloping block. The views to the river and city are reward for the effort in both design and construction.

CONTACT Humphrey Homes, 9284 5444



Doors that have a natural affinity with our great outdoors.

Affinity Sliding Door



Affinity - Perth Office
85 Vulcan Road,
Canning Vale, Western Australia 6155
Telephone: 08 9334 4600
Facsimile: 08 9334 4501
Email: sales@affinitywindows.com.au
Website: www.affinitywindows.com.au

Affinity - South West Office
13 Allnut Court,
Bunbury, Western Australia 6230
Telephone: 08 9726 2048
Facsimile: 08 9726 2046

affinity
DOORS, WINDOWS & SHOWER SCREENS TM

Affinity/Slide_WAN14860