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The frontage uses a mix of render, weatherboards and a striking polished plaster feature wall.

Restrained elegance a carefully planned look

■ Katie Lee

An understated palette is paired with elegant design in this Swanbourne home, which was not built for wow factor but as a comfortable, long-term family residence, according to Humphrey Homes director Dean Humphrey.

Though, while the restrained and restful ambience that the client was after is right on point, the workmanship Humphrey Homes is renowned for still deserves some celebratory kudos — reflecting Mr Humphrey's "do it once and do it well" dictum.

"The home looks clean and simple but it takes a lot of planning to look that way," he said. "It is all of the little design features that provide the challenges, for example the way things fit together and how they are finished."

The clients worked very closely with Humphrey Homes on the design. Although first-time builders, they were well versed in what they wanted both for the bigger picture and on the smaller scale.

"The clients were clear on most of the details; they knew what they wanted for the overall feel, materials and fittings, right down to the construction details," Mr



Humphrey said. "We worked alongside them the whole time so they got exactly what they wanted."

Humphrey Homes' in-house architect Kerie Tang was presented with a concept design at the beginning of the consultation process which she then developed and refined, focusing on construction details, selections and compliance.

The frontage uses a mix of render, weatherboards and a striking polished-plaster feature wall that extends up the double-storey design.

Inside, 180mm oak floorboards warm the neutral design, which has a beachy feel, fitting with its coastal locale.

The external polished plaster also acts as an internal feature around the fire in the living room.

A bulkhead ceiling provides definition over the kitchen and dining space and a wall of windows in the lounge provides views over



the pool and fulfils pool fencing requirements with most of the glass fixed in place. A separate theatre or activity room offers another living zone.

Merbau decking has been left unsealed in the alfresco area so it will turn grey over time. The roofline looks like it is floating, jutting out from the main house and held up by two slimline posts.

Bluestone frames the pool and reaches down into the waterline, while aluminium slat fencing provides views to the streetfront and simultaneously offers a sense of privacy.

The main suite is tucked behind a cavity sliding door. It has a walk-in robe, big ensuite and wide stacker windows opening to encourage breezes into the sleeping space.

Frameless sash windows have also been used around the home for ventilation.

The minor bedrooms, study and an activity area are also on the first level, as a cellar and storeroom have been carved into the basement.

Mr Humphrey said, like many of his designs, it was difficult to describe the home.

"All of our homes are custom designed for our client's needs, so it is hard to fit them in to one particular style," he said, though he added the tailored styling meant their final products catered perfectly for each individual's way of life.

■ The home was an entry in the 2013 HIA Perth Housing Awards in the custom built homes \$1,200,001 to \$1,700,000 category. For inquiries phone Humphrey Homes on 9284 5444.

