

BUILD



LIGHTNESS OF BEING

Building a home that was flooded by natural light, but spared its owners from worrying about baring their all to the street was the name of the game when Humphrey Builders took on this luxurious project

BUILD us a box of light” isn’t the sort of brief that architects and builders typically receive from their clients, but then the team at award-winning firm Humphrey Homes have proven they’re adept at accommodating their fair share of extraordinary requests.

Covering a stack of butcher paper with hand-drawn designs was just one of the ways this ambitious project unfolded after clients, Anthea Mann and Will Moncrieff shared their out-of-the-box vision for a 997sq m block in Floreat.

Research into innovative construction materials and regular discussions between the owners, architect, builder and interior designer soon followed.

“They wanted lots of light and lots of warmth, and the best feedback we had from people coming through was that there was light everywhere,” Humphrey Homes managing director Dean Humphrey says.

“It got to the point where people asked if the porcelain tiles had underfloor heating.”

While the desire to live in a home that’s flooded with natural light is a box many new home builders yearn to tick, the real-world needs for privacy and functionality often get in the way.

To fulfil this particular brief, Dean and in-house architect Helen Marchesani installed an array of different-sized windows and strategically placed them across the walls.

“We had to consider privacy, which we did really well on the south side by building a big rammed concrete wall and putting vertical slot windows in it,” Dean says.

“On the other side, we kept the windows smaller and used gardens to screen them.

“There are lots of windows to the north where there aren’t any privacy issues. These include large stacking glass doors.”

Meticulous care was taken with each product selection, from the timber cladding on the top level to the rammed concrete walls that feature inside and out.

When merged together, the finishes create an warm yet striking look throughout the 547sq m three-bedroom, two-bathroom home.

“Every feature was integral to the design’s intent,” Dean says.

“The whole upper floor has been built using timber framing and clad in western red cedar that’s been stained grey.

“The western elevation includes a metal skeletal frame which is both structural and visual.”

Anthea, an assistant winemaker at her family’s Mann winery, and lawyer Will, say the journey from start to finish was “much less daunting” than they’d expected.

“We felt informed throughout and it was satisfying to deal with a team who seemed as enthusiastic about our project as we were,” Will says.

JADE JUREWICZ





PICTURES: ANGELITA BONETTI



FAST FACTS

- ✦ The 547sq m home, with three bedrooms, two bathrooms plus two powder rooms, occupies a 997sq m block in Floreat.
- ✦ Materials such as rammed concrete, western red cedar and steel have been expertly combined to create a striking, organic look.
- ✦ An entire wing of the home can be closed off to give guests plenty of privacy.

get the look

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