

# Owners meet challenges of downsizing

■ Kim Cousins

**T**his South Perth home was built as a “forever” house by the owners — one they plan to stay in for the rest of their lives.

Once their two sons left home, the couple decided to downsize, selling their home and buying a block in the same area.

Their current home has three bedrooms, a low-maintenance yard and views to Perth city and surrounding bushland.

Picture windows around the house take in the scenery — even the bath has a view.

A recycled timber post in the middle of the home provides warmth and a focal point, and also links to the owners’ previous home which was built of jarrah.

Humphrey Homes director Dean Humphrey said it was just one of the special touches added to the home.

“It was hand-crafted and fitted into and around existing stairs,” he said.

“It had to be so precise that we made templates from foam and plywood before committing to cutting the actual post, as there were no second chances.

“The post was so old and crumbly that it was like working with a giant Flake chocolate but it fits so tightly it looks like it grew there.”

Mr Humphrey said the island bench in the kitchen was a big challenge.

“The owners gave the architects a magazine photo which the architects drew on their plans and we were handed the challenge of making it work,” he said.

“The bench has a 1.2m cantilever which no benchtop supplier would warranty so we designed it in-house.”

Easy to maintain, the home is also environmentally friendly with double glazing for thermal and acoustic insulation and has solar heating, with provision for future photovoltaic cells.

The owners were heavily involved in the planning,



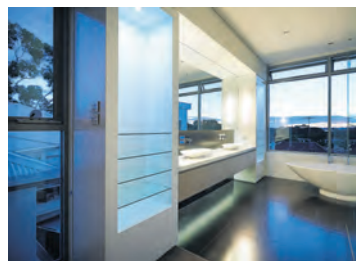
The home is environmentally friendly with double glazing for thermal and acoustic insulation.

spending 12 months working on the design with architects.

The downstairs entry-level incorporates an office, bathroom, family room and two guest rooms while the upper level houses the kitchen, main living area and main suite.

A laundry and four-car garage complete the lower level, which has been built into the steeply sloping site.

■ The home was an entry in the 2014 HIA Perth Housing Awards in the custom-built homes \$1,600,001-\$2,600,000 category. For inquiries, phone Humphrey Homes on 9284 5444.



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