



This Fremantle entrant in the Housing Industry Association Awards was designed to be as eco-friendly as possible while also being understatedly elegant.

Storeys have happy endings

Good use of natural materials results in a raw yet refined feeling, writes **Maya Anderson**

A home that was sustainable, creative, made good use of natural materials, suited its 350sqm site and took advantage of the sea views was part of the design brief for this home in Fremantle.

Designed and built by the owners of Fleet & Beck Builders, Adam Fleet and Anna Gahnstrom, the house is four storeys on one side, two on the other, and was designed to be as eco-friendly as possible while also being understatedly elegant.

"The house has a raw yet refined feel," Mr Fleet said. "We wanted to build something more natural, a bit timeless — earthy, yet refined."

The steeply sloping block proved a challenge to build on and was mostly limestone that needed to be painstakingly carved away to allow room for the house.

There is now a double garage

where the cliff face was and limestone from the cliff was used in the house. The garage level also has storage areas, including a wine cellar, and access to the lift.

A stunning staircase with a glass pyramid roof to the stairwell is as elegant as it is functional and was designed to flood the centre of the home, even the lowest levels, with

natural light. Stone steps lead from the front of the home to the formal entry.

The house has a self-contained apartment or guest suite at the front where Mr Fleet and Ms Gahnstrom stayed while building the rest of the home.

This apartment has jarrah floors, a pine ceiling, recycled brick walls, kitchen with teak

benchtops and a bathroom with travertine tiling, an open shower, vanity and toilet.

The floor above contains one of the two main suites, this one with a curved brick ceiling, access to a balcony, a red polished plaster feature wall to the bedhead, beyond which is a walk-in robe, and an ensuite.

Another wing to the house has two more bedrooms, both with curved brick ceilings and underfloor heating, a children's living area or theatre room with bi-fold doors opening to a garden at the back with a wood-fired pizza oven, and views across Fremantle, the harbour and the ocean through beautiful mature gum trees.

"We had our wedding reception out here," Ms Gahnstrom said.

This wing of the house also holds a bathroom with a single vanity, shower, bath and toilet, and a laundry with CaesarStone benchtops and white cabinetry, similar to that of the kitchen.

On the next level up is another main suite at the front of the home, finished similarly to the first, and the main living area of the home, the spacious open-plan kitchen, living and dining with big windows and a balcony that makes the most of the sea view.

With limestone walls and a kitchen with stainless-steel appliances and an open-style scullery, this room has a warm, light and inviting feel.

The house does not have air-conditioning.

Instead, it uses louvres extensively for cross-ventilation and to make the most of the sea breezes.



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Suburb: Fremantle
Builder: Fleet & Beck Builders
Phone: 9335 9455

