

ROLLING OUT THE BARREL

After convincing his Swedish wife that Perth was the best place to live, Adam Fleet has created a four-level stunner in Fremantle

IN his youth, Fremantle local Adam Fleet began working as a labourer on building sites and also tried his hand as a bricklayer to support his passion for music. However, the more Adam spent time on construction sites the more his love for the building trade increased.

Building eventually took priority and five years ago Adam joined forces with Michael Beck to launch the Fleet & Beck building company in North Fremantle.

"I think houses take on an artistic form but on a much bigger scale," Adam says.

Adam has been able to enjoy the fruits of his labour having completed his own home just over a year ago.

He met his Swedish wife, Anna, while he was working in the building trade in Europe and convinced her that Perth was the best place to settle.

Adam combined the sharp and clean designs that Sweden was famous for with the natural textures of Fremantle to create a unique four-storey family home.

And it all began with having barrel-vaulted ceilings.

"We were trying to get a big family home on a small block," Adam says. "The home has been built around the size of the barrel vaults."

"The block was basically six metres above street level before we even got going so we cleared out about 1000 cubic metres and tried to get the structural side of things to work with the barrel vaults."

Adam and Anna wanted their home to have an inside/outside feel with natural lighting and breezes flowing easily throughout.

"We sort of tunnelled in and built a centre tower with a glass roof - where the stairwell

and lift shaft have been located - to connect the basement to the top floor," Adam says.

"The stairwell - with a polished plaster finish - bounces light all the way from the top down to the basement. We tried to utilise every bit of natural resource. We used translucent glass internally so that the northern light we get can also be utilised to provide the south side with some natural light."

Fleet & Beck also started a small joinery shop so that Adam and Anna's residence could have all of the window frames for the home made there.

"We just wanted to be a bit more self sufficient and sustainable," Adam says. "We tried really hard not to build the way everyone else was building. We wanted to strip the whole structure back a bit and a lot of things were finished as we went along."

The basement level includes a garage with storage space and a foyer with the lift and stairs.

The next floor up is a small apartment with a single bedroom.

"This is perfect when we have family coming over from Europe," Adam says.

The natural ground floor has a living room with bifold doors opening to an alfresco area with a pizza oven and ocean views.

There are also four bedrooms - one with an ensuite - on that floor, a laundry and the main bathroom.

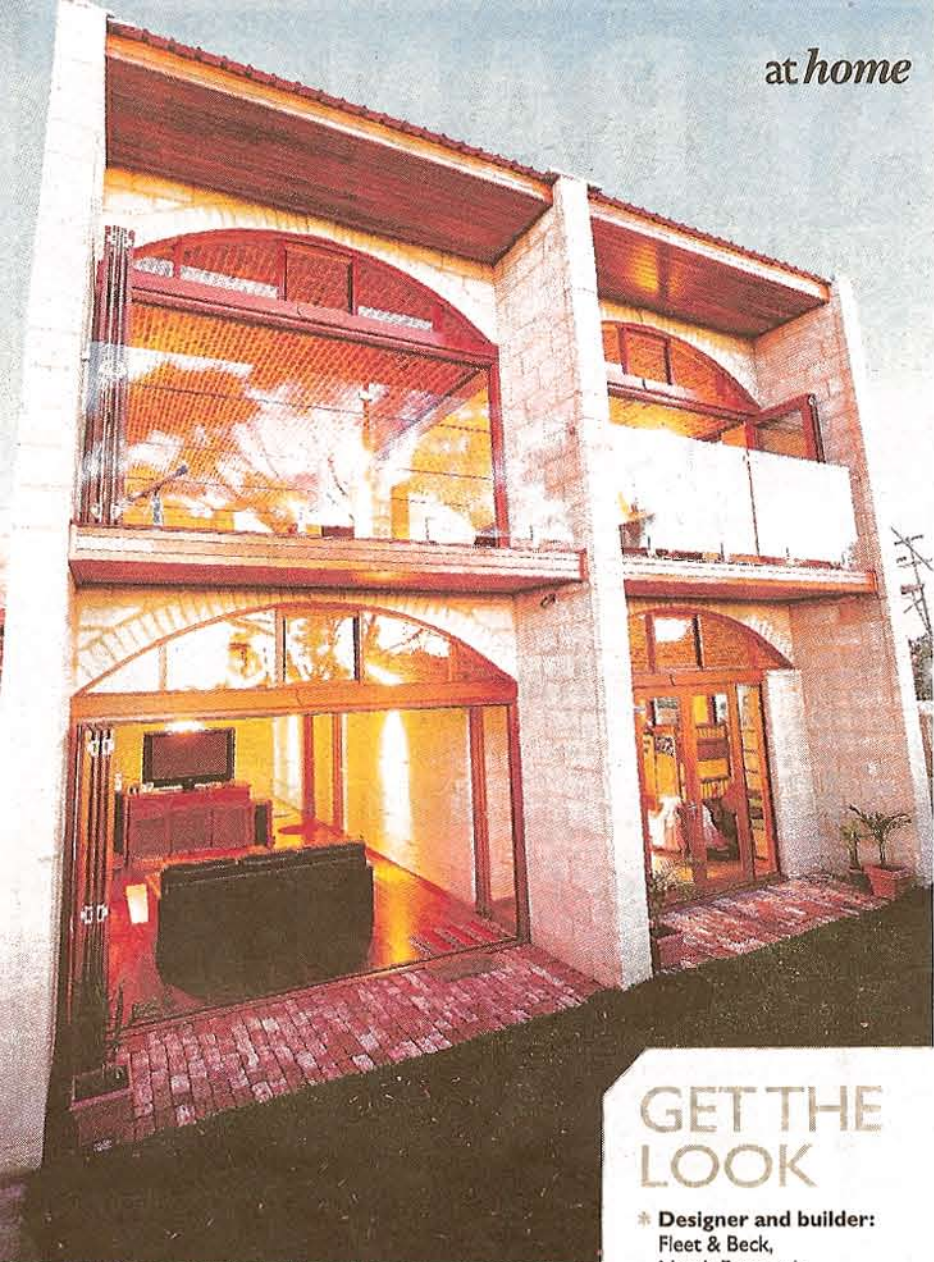
The kitchen, living and dining areas are on the top floor, also with bifold doors and ocean views to add to the inside/outside feel.

Two exterior Kimberley stone staircases take you from the garage level up to the natural ground floor and from the alfresco up to the living area at the top.

Adam says his inspiration for the design

GET THE LOOK

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came from his European travels and also the sights he sees in Fremantle every day.

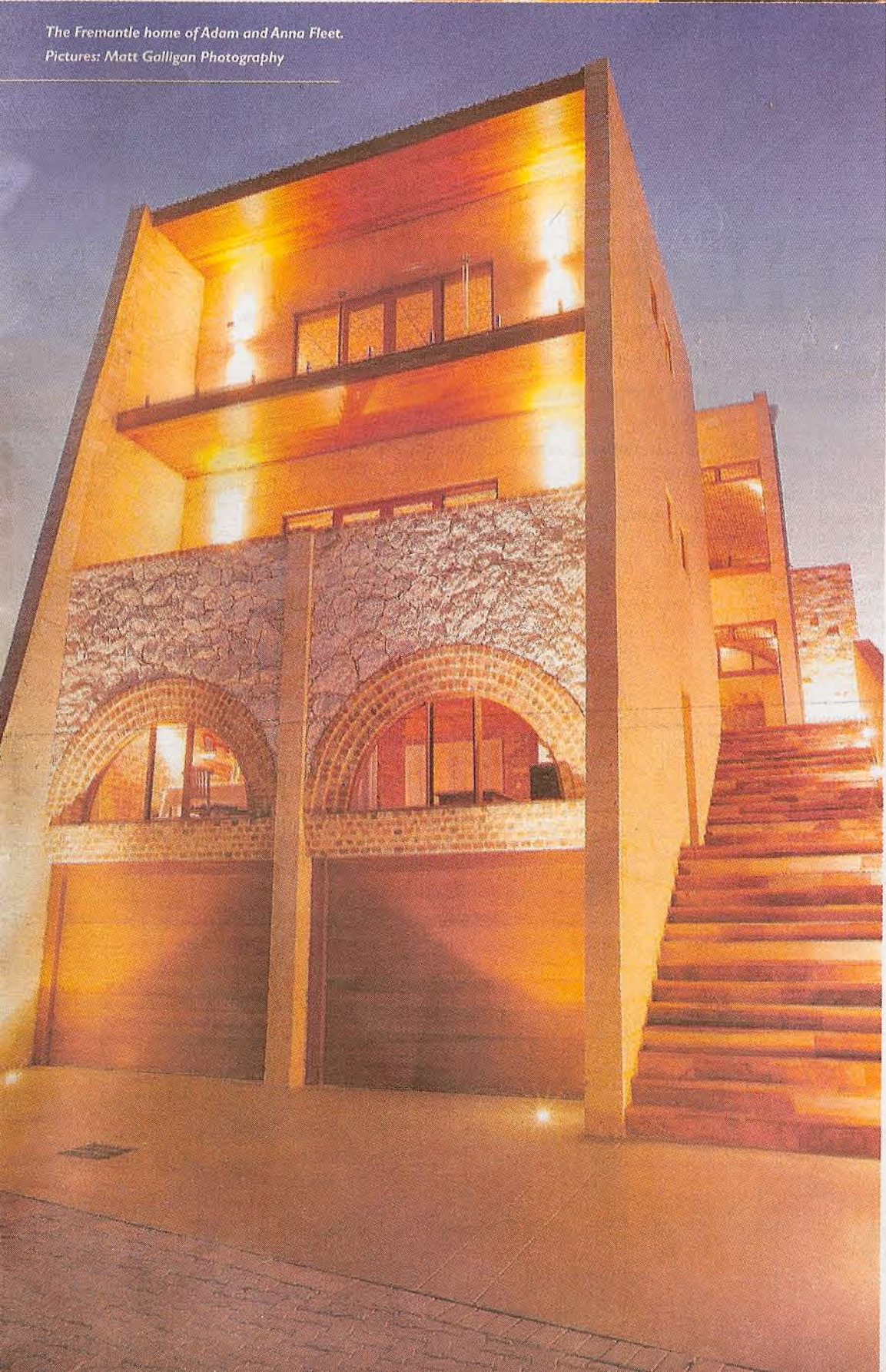
"I think it's a modern version of a terrace house," he says. "Our visiting family members love it and have been absolutely blown away because it's so different to what they find there, but not unusual for Fremantle."

"It suits our lifestyle – and it's very low-maintenance."

Beth Rivers



The Fremantle home of Adam and Anna Fleet.
Pictures: Matt Galligan Photography



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