



Passion pods

Original bush home hits all the right notes, says **Maureen Eppen**

Environmentally conscious musician, artist, builder and family man Adam Fleet has combined all his passions in the design and construction of a strikingly original home on a big bush block bordering State forest.

Mr Fleet, a director of Fleet and Beck Builders and the son of Easybeats drummer “Snowy” Fleet, designed the spec home to complement the jarrah and grass trees that flourish on the 3239sqm block close to the Jarrahdale township, and a short drive from Serpentine Dam and Falls.

The home comprises three detached pods linked by glazed breezeways, and features a combination of skillion and curved roof lines — to dramatic effect inside and out.

Exterior walls are in the rich natural tones of recycled bricks, softened by a limestone wash and complemented by broad expanses of plywood below the eaves.

Mr Fleet and his wife, Anna, who is also a director of the building company, said they were

warm tones of feature-grade jarrah floorboards and a ply-lined ceiling in the main living zone and the dramatic curves of the zincalume barrel-vaulted ceilings in the four bedrooms, bathrooms and laundry.

“We love the timeless finishes that we have used for this home — you can’t pin a date on it, to say when it was built,” Mr Fleet said.

Big, boldly coloured and textured contemporary paintings by Mr Fleet feature on several walls, along with memorabilia of his father’s musical career.

A love of music and an interest in architecture and construction runs through the Fleet family, with Adam and his brother, Simon, inheriting their father’s talents and playing and working regularly together.

While they built the home to sell, Mr and Mrs Fleet and their children, Axel, 6, Astrid, 4, and Freja, 2, have spent some time there since its completion.

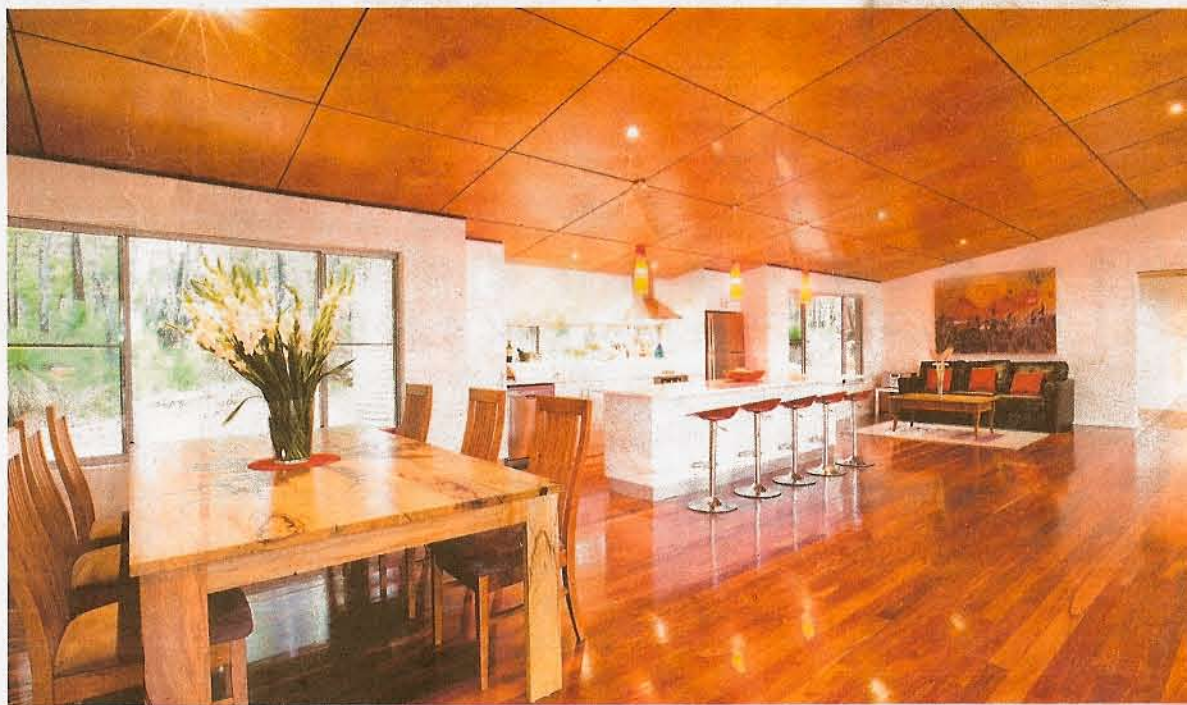
All have enjoyed the panoramic views across the unspoilt bushland — to a heritage-listed mill site and

forest at the back of the house.

“We wanted every window or glass door in the house to frame a bush view, and we wanted to ensure we had plenty of privacy, so the side wings are angled so we can’t see the neighbouring houses,” he said.

The central pod is a big, light-filled space that serves as living room, dining area and kitchen, topped by the raking, ply-lined ceiling and linked to the front deck by three sliding doors.

The contemporary kitchen has essa stone benches, stainless-steel cooking appliances, a big island bench and breakfast bar, and plenty of storage space.



The jarrah floorboards and a ply-lined ceiling enhance the main living zone.

Below: Adam and Anna Fleet.

‘I don’t think I could ever go back to a tiled bathroom again . . .’

keen to create a home that would do justice to the beautiful bush block, taking inspiration from buildings of bygone days and incorporating passive solar design elements for reduced energy consumption and minimal environmental impact.

A freeform jarrah deck extends from the front of the house, suspended above the garden, which has been retained in its natural state, and sloping gently down to a gravel driveway that meanders around tall jarrah trees to a pair of timbered carports.

Inside, off-white stucco provides a low-maintenance finish to the walls, contrasting with the

The private main suite and a second bedroom or theatre room fill one of the side pods, with two big minor bedrooms, a bathroom and the laundry in the third pod — all topped with striking barrel-vaulted zincalume ceilings.

Travertine floor tiles are used in the bathrooms and laundry, where the splashbacks also have a modified stucco finish, burnished with olive soap and waterproofed with beeswax.

“I don’t think I could ever go back to a tiled bathroom again, because this type of finish is so much easier to maintain — and there’s no need for chemicals,” Mrs Fleet said. Bathroom and ensuite have glossy white free-standing vanity units against walls that screen the toilet on one side and hobless shower stall on the other.

The children’s bathroom also has a corner spa bath.

This home is for sale. For inquiries contact Fleet & Beck Builders on 9335 9455 or visit www.fleetbeck.com.au.

