



Displays of passion in Valentine edition

From an ambitious example of what can be achieved on a cottage block — our story on these pages — to an indulgent outdoor area created for a Mt Lawley home, pages 62-63, this week's New Homes is packed with all your favourite features. And more.

A Kimberley couple share their outback owner-builder experience and show off their home, fashioned from sea containers, on page 8, and Claude Romano explains his passion for classic Mediterranean architecture and design as he walks us through his Stirling palazzo, page 18.

There are four new displays to check out, including Redink Homes' Cerise Star, which is our cover story, and the setting for our Valentine's Day photo-shoot.

INSIDE NEW HOMES

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All prices in this liftout are recommended retail and are subject to change

# Innovation makes an



Rich timber on the staircase contrasts with the chrome and glass of the balustrade.

This distinctive home has become a local landmark, blending standout looks with clever design. **Helen Crompton** reports.

This four-level home by Fleet & Beck Builders is an ambitious, inspiring example of what can be achieved on a difficult but ultimately rewarding block, and is both innovative and individual.

Building for their own family including three young children, Anna and Adam Fleet, along with building partner Mike Beck, designed this modern home with external castle-like elements but interiors with domestic proportions and refined natural finishes.

The concept was to create a home that was sustainable, creative, made the best use of natural materials and suited its 350sqm site, including taking advantage of the sea views.

From the street this one-year-old Fremantle house is imposing, a local landmark these days, looking down as it does from the top of a steeply rising limestone knoll.

In fact, a substantial part of the home has been dug into the rise

(digging 7 metres down and several back, 1000 cubic metres of limestone was excavated for the job, some of which was used on the home's facade) and this gave rise to a major design element: the central spine of the home.

This is a tall, glass-ceiling light well which drags warmth and brightness down through all levels, even the subterranean double garage. Translucent glass in internal doors also helps distribute natural light throughout.

This creative use of light is a distinctive feature, along with natural air ventilation (there's no need for air-conditioning) and a vital sense of outdoor connection.

Six rooms have been given barrel-vaulted ceilings, each with a mostly hidden steel support and taking several tonnes of bricks to create.

This not only lends living spaces impressive acoustics, it also facilitates the flow of air and stylistically softens the hardness of the sealed brick.

A HOME TO DEFINE QUALITY

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# impression

Easy access and good pedestrian flow is in-built. From the ground floor, residents can either use the access through the garage (a lift shaft has been installed at the bottom of the light well to the top level on the north side) or the external flight of richly coloured Kimberley stone steps at the home's front.

A second timber staircase leads from the fourth-floor living areas down to a modest garden the width of the block with lawn, borders, a pizza oven and, as a luxurious backdrop, the sea. This

into the finish, blending with the travertine floors.

The noteworthy main bedroom faces east for morning sun and its balcony is afforded privacy by stone fins that slope backwards and have been used either side and the length of the home.

A false wall with a rich, earth-red textured finish demarcates the walk-in robe area on the south side of the room.

Hailing from Sweden meant that Ms Fleet's parents had to be accommodated comfortably on long family visits.

**The concept was to create a home that was sustainable, creative, made the best use of natural materials and suited its 350sqm site.**

serves the third level living spaces and one of the four bedrooms.

Life on the top level is good. Open-plan areas include the kitchen designed by local firm Kitchen Solutions with its off-white reconstituted stone benches and smart, dark-brown gloss laminate carpentry which doesn't compete with the display-grade jarrah flooring.

An open galley-styled scullery houses everything a cook needs to hand while a breakfast bar and bench area is set 90 degrees to this.

Touch cupboards and use of space make this area appear seamless.

Doors opening on to the wide timber deck help create space and with a frameless glass balustrade, diners and those relaxing in the adjacent sitting area get uninterrupted views of the local scene and the ocean.

Louvres have been used to facilitate natural ventilation throughout the house, including bathrooms, and can be securely left open to vent hot air on summer nights.

Most walls have a rich, waxy stucco finish, off-white with a tint added.

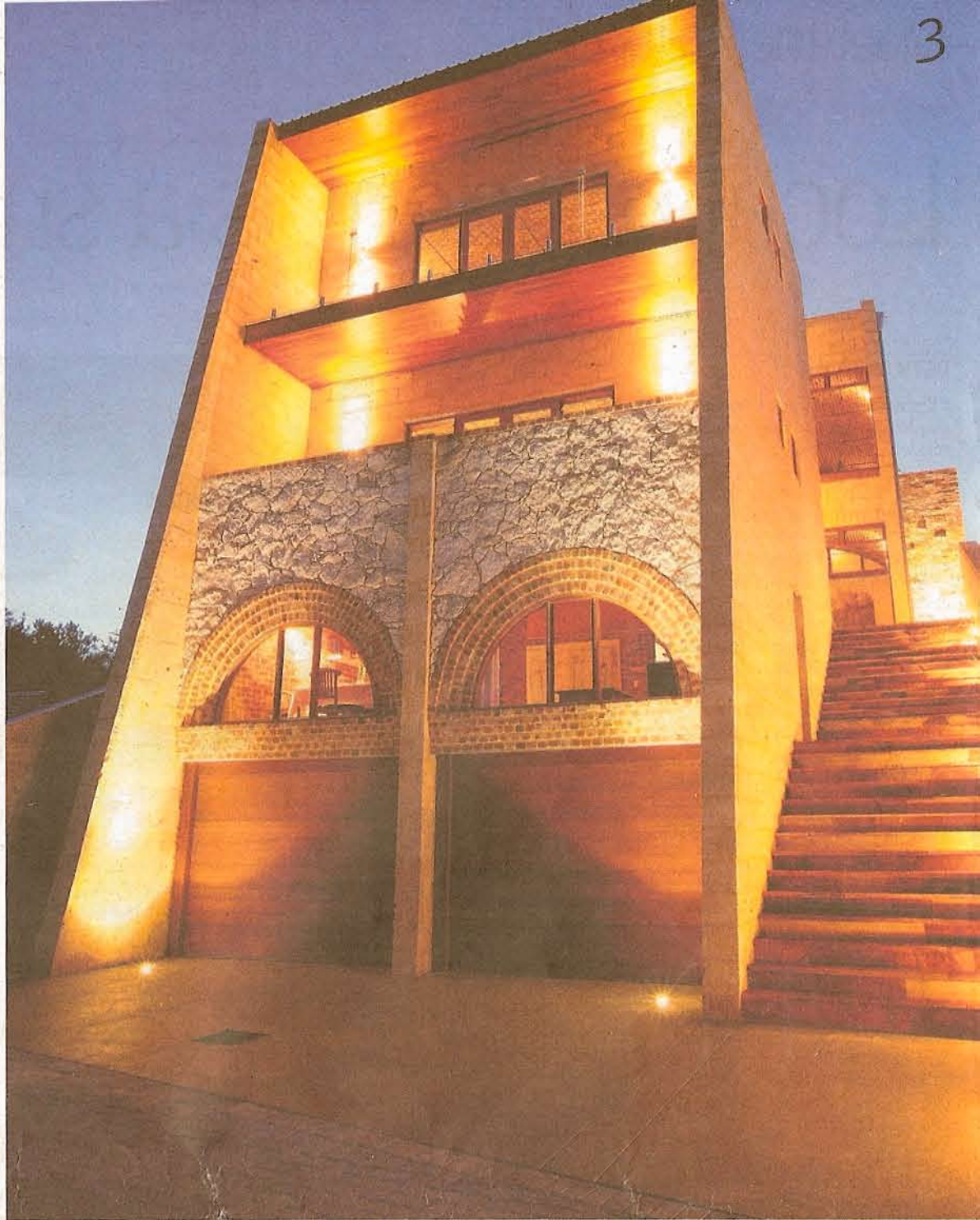
For example, the main bedroom's ensuite on the third level has dull gold patches rubbed

The second floor with its own external entry is dedicated to this and includes a sitting, dining and bedroom area with pine-lined ceiling, separate bathroom and kitchen.

With four/five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a study and two separate living spaces, this home functions well.

Mr Fleet says simply: "It works. It's back to basics, but it works."

For more information, phone Fleet & Beck Builders on 0412 888 926.



The impressive home makes the most of an awkward block and combines form with function to striking effect.

