

HOME

March 13, 2011



at home
Winging it

FLIGHT OF FANCY

The owners of this Applecross home were looking for something different – and they certainly got it from award-winning building designer Gary Keen

KATIE Tarrant and her husband, Roger, liked the style of a few Gary Keen homes that they had seen from the outside. And the Tarrants were even more taken when they got the chance to look inside one, having been invited to take a guided tour by the owners.

The couple were also impressed by the close partnership between the award-winning designer and Mulvay Builders, the building firm that worked on the house.

The Tarrants, who have two young boys, wanted the same team to build them a house in a similar style.

"We've built a few homes with Gary Keen Building Design and these clients just liked that 'something different' in the design," Mulvay Builders owner and director Mark Mulvay says.

At Gary's suggestion, the resulting design is even more "different" – the striking feature being the three-part, curve-shaped roof addition, which Mark says depicts aeroplane wings. The "wings" are also reminiscent of outdoor shade sails above swimming pools and are a perfect fit for this property's riverside location.

"It's built with coastal conditions in mind. The home is only one house away from the river," Mark says.

"The unique curved soffits (undersides

of the sail features) are western red cedar-lined."

Like the outer shell, the interior design is also modern and fresh.

The two-storey home has three key areas: the guest quarters, the children's wing and the parents' suite, which occupies the entire second floor with a landing, studio, balcony, large ensuite with a spa and a walk-in robe.

To the left of the entry is a study and the guest room, with ensuite, while to the right you go through to the spacious, open-plan kitchen, living and dining area and this then leads through to the children's two bedrooms, a bathroom, an activity room and the laundry.

Mark says smooth, grey dado plastering was used throughout the home – a type of very hard plaster that is difficult to chip.

In the central living area is the lounge, which features a stainless steel fireplace.

"It runs off methylated spirits and produces a lot of heat," Mark says.

There is also a very sleek, award-winning kitchen. "The family use the tall kitchen bench more than they thought they would," Mark says. "They have a long table over in the dining area but the bench works so well that everyone sits there – even the kids do their homework there while the parents are preparing in the kitchen."

From the kitchen there is an almost 180-degree view of the backyard and its undercover alfresco, swimming pool and a strip of artificial lawn, which is like a "cricket pitch", according to Mark.

A raking ceiling in the kitchen runs up to a highlight window that lets light into the centre of the home.

The owners opted for marri timber on the staircase treads and handrail. The marri was especially sourced by Gary and milled to emphasise the black knots of the wood. Veneered bookleaf marri was used for the pivot front door.

Mark says the 1075sq m Applecross block is reasonably tucked away from the street and with electric swinging gates, an intercom and security camera, the family can really feel like the property is their own little retreat.

Beth Rivers



entrust

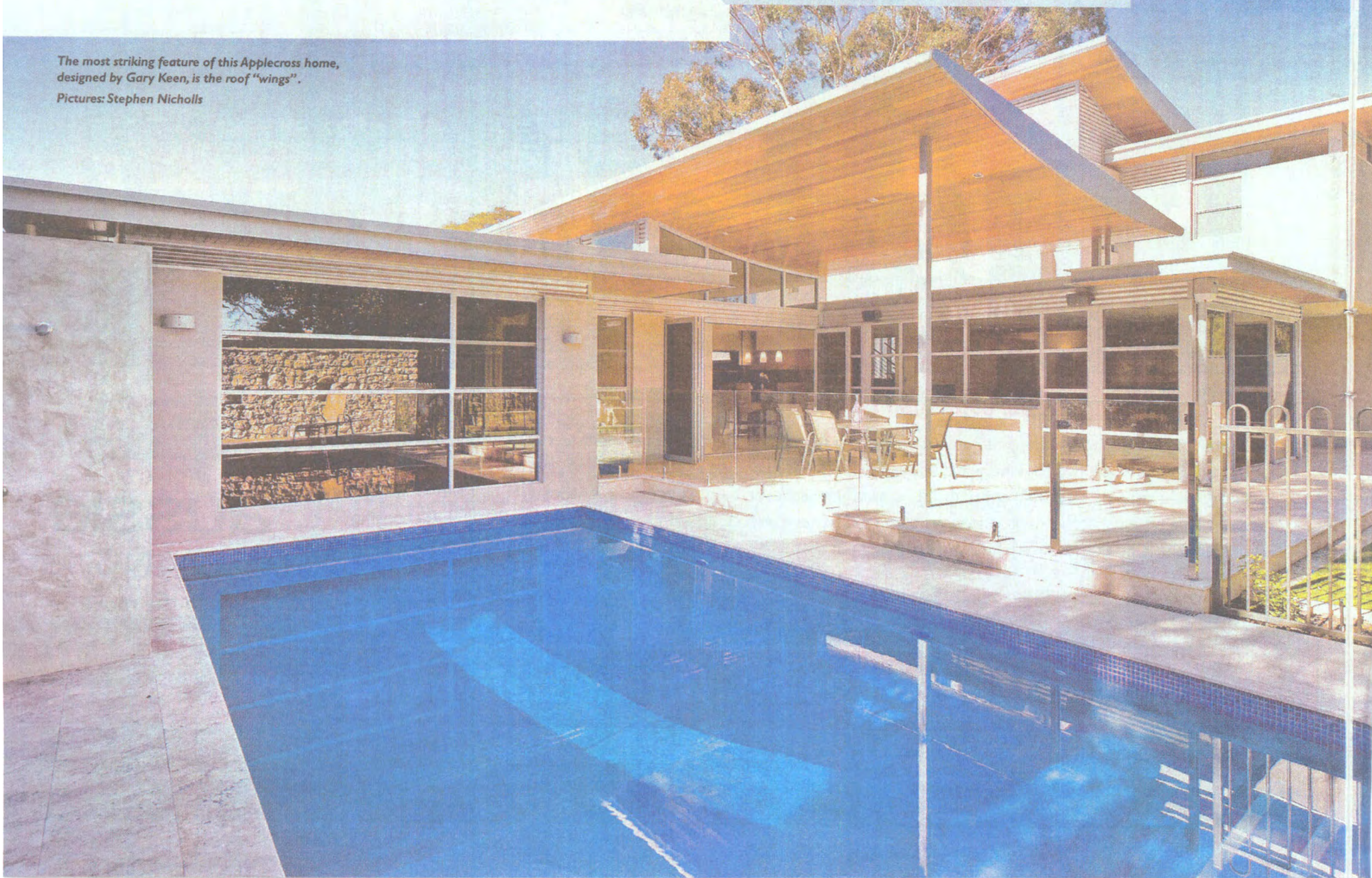
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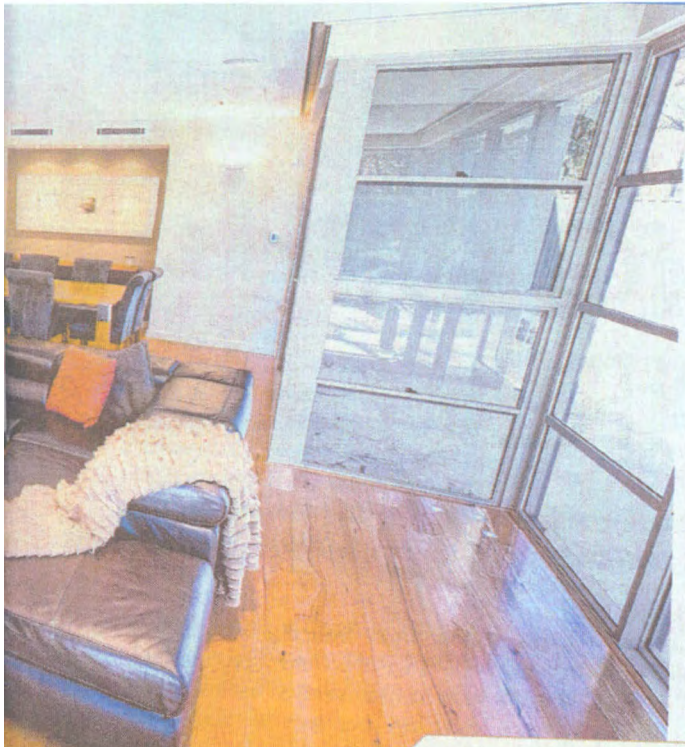


Contract Homes

The most striking feature of this Applecross home, designed by Gary Keen, is the roof "wings".

Pictures: Stephen Nicholls



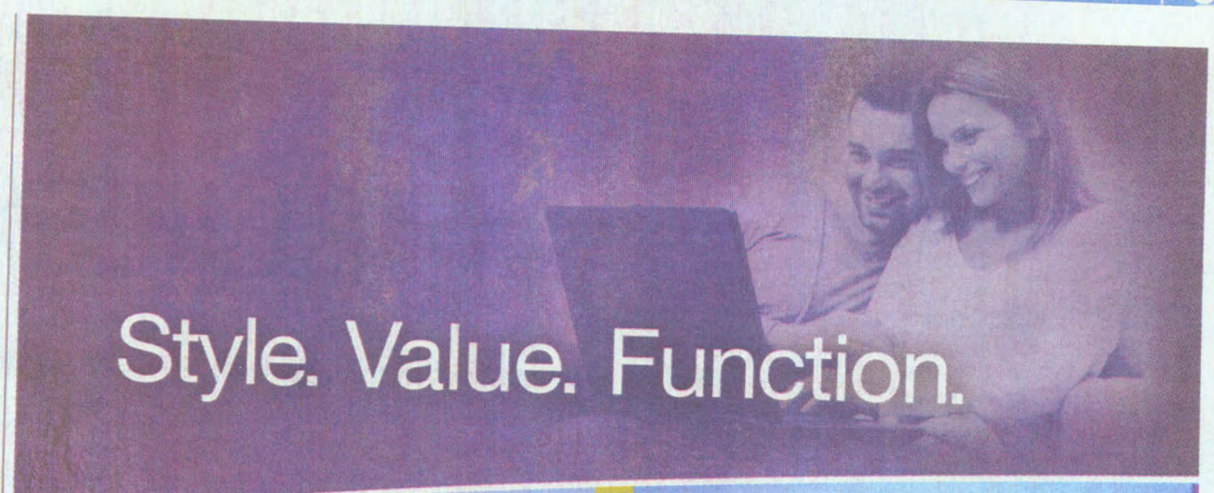
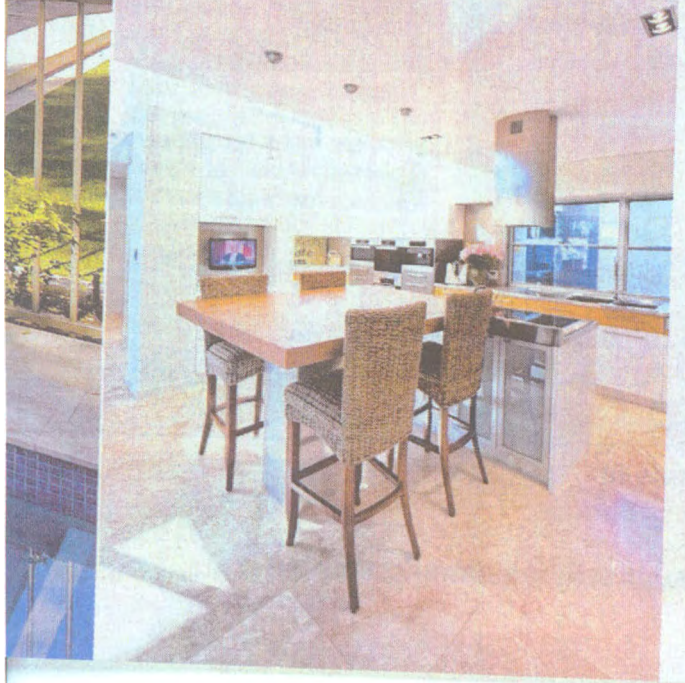


GET THE LOOK

*** Building designer:**
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*** Builder:** Mulvay Builders, Karrinyup, phone: 9341 2010, www.mulvaybuilders.com.au

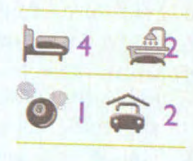
Gary Keen Building Design won the Residential Buildings 351sq m to 450sq m category at the BDAWA Design Awards 2010 for this home.



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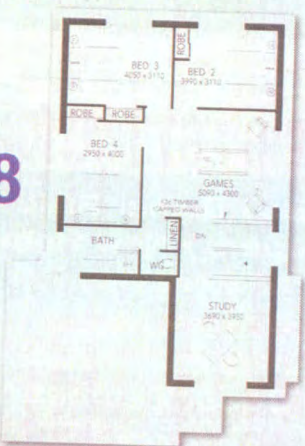


The Manning (Ultimo)



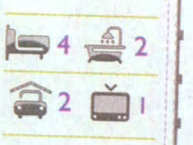
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Total Area 250m²
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Upper Floor

The Bicton (Ultimo)



Ground Floor

Total Area 266m²
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Upper Floor

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