

HIA-ANZ HOUSING AWARDS

Maureen Eppen

In outer space

AN EXTENDED alfresco sitting and dining area — incorporating an indoor-outdoor kitchen — merges seamlessly with the interior of this canal-side home at Port Mandurah.

Instead of adding alfresco space in a rear corner or across the back, the designer allowed the space to penetrate to the heart of the home, where it can be seen through a series of wraparound, full-height glass walls and accessed at several points through glazed sliding and bi-fold doors.

The glass walls allow visitors to see through various rooms from the foyer, on the street side of the block, to the canal at the back.

Builder Mark Mulvay said the result was a home which reflected the sort of casual, comfortable lifestyle that suited its waterside setting.

The alfresco rooms and the main living and dining areas are positioned to maximise the canal views and the internal glass walls ensure the attractive outlook can be enjoyed from other parts of the house or while moving from room to room.

These integrated rooms also open on to a terrace and deck which spans the back of the house, surrounded by the clean lines of a steel wire and jarrah balustrade.

External stairs lead down to an undercroft and sundeck alongside the canal and the jetty. This has extended the potential for outdoor living and makes the most of the block's dimensions while maintaining a single-level home.

The unusual alfresco area is certainly the outstanding feature of this home but it has many other impressive features, including the kitchen and a luxurious main bedroom.

The kitchen has an elongated U-shaped layout and the designer has chosen to incorporate drawers of various widths and depths in place of cupboards wherever possible. Overhead cupboards have obscure glass panels.

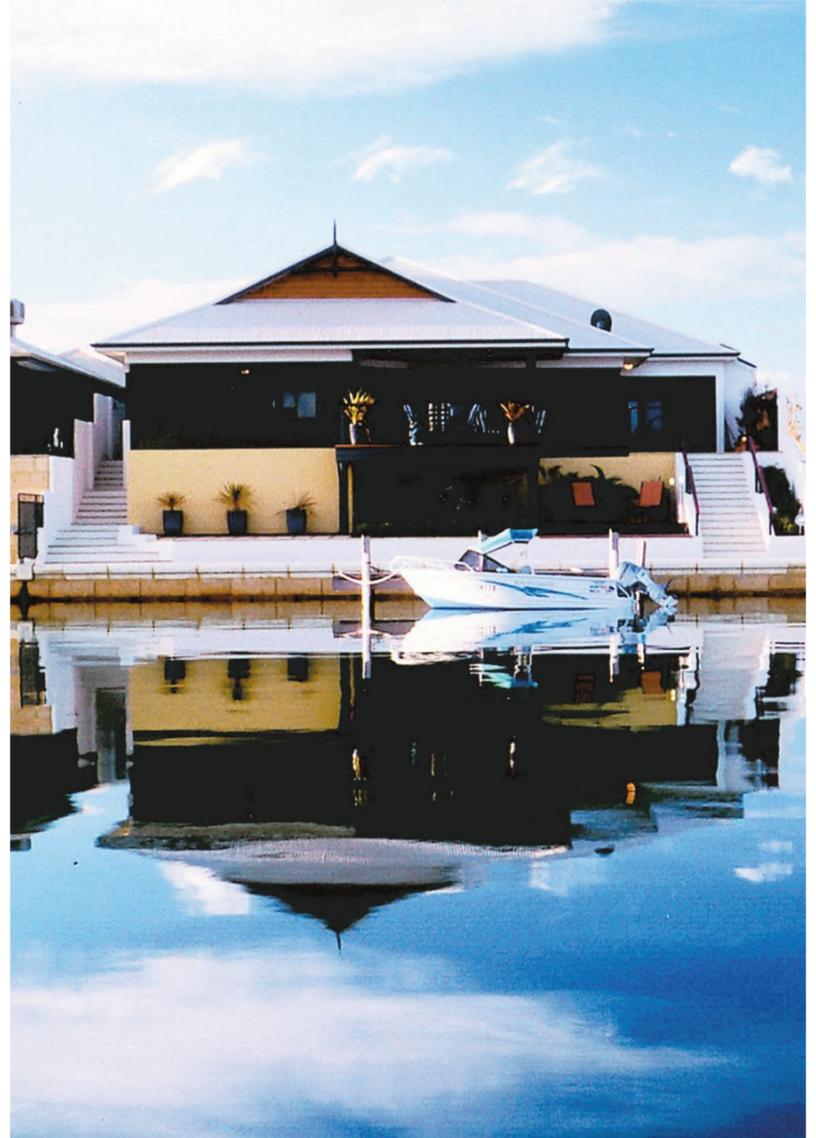
An appliance cupboard is tucked out of the way in a corner of the kitchen and open display shelves are positioned for maximum impact. The double sink is centred in one of the long benches to take in the canal views beyond the adjacent dining room but is screened by a capped splashback.

On the outer edge of this screen wall, shelves and cupboards with a curved outer edge provide extra storage and display areas alongside the dining area.

Bedrooms are on the street side of the house but the main bedroom benefits from an outlook through the alfresco area to the canal beyond. Its ensuite has twin basins in a stylish vanity unit, an oval spa in one corner and a screened shower with a tiled plinth in another.

The minor bedrooms are in a separate wing near the main bathroom, the laundry and an access door to the double garage.

This impressive home has a high level of finish throughout, including cedar and pine linings to feature ceilings on the front porch, the back terrace and the alfresco area.



The Port Mandurah home suits casual, comfortable living.



The innovative alfresco area maximises views of the canal at the back.



The kitchen has many clever, practical features.

External stairs lead down to an undercroft and sundeck

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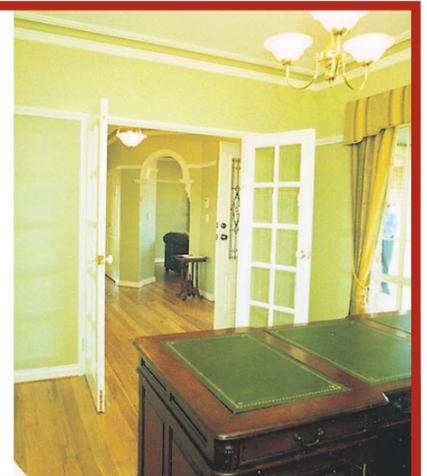
CATEGORY: Custom built, \$150,001-\$200,000
SUBURB: Mandurah
BUILDER: Mulvay Builders
PHONE: 9446 6716
DESIGNER: Dolphin Designs



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