

HOME

January 17, 2010

at home

Time for reflection



Many of today's homeowners want to feel like they are spending a year in Provence without leaving Perth's shores. So much so, that they are renovating their residences with French-style flair and splashing out on decorative goodies with a Gallic twist.

This week, HOME showcases a sensational renovation project that saw an ordinary 1980s home converted into a modern-day chateau.

Those without the budget to remodel their residences should check out the Most Wanted page, where we show how to create a Parisian vibe on a petite scale.



SANDRA PETERSON
Home editor

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MIRROR IMAGE

It took five years to create this award-winning home, whose cutting-edge design includes mirrors that turn into televisions at the press of a button

MIRROR, mirror on the wall, whose is the fairest house of all? Arguably, in Aglioceras. Standing proudly on a corner block is a brilliantly conceived abode whose cutting-edge design is reflected on almost every surface.

The instantly eye-catching vision was five years in the making and is testament to the talent of building designer Shayne Le Roy, interior designer Leon House and their hands-on clients.

"The fortunate circumstance of having no restriction when designing this house allowed me to explore design details that in the past had been very restrictive on budgets," Shayne says.

The clients' major brief was that the home had to feel like being in one of the tropical balinese resorts that they frequently visit.

To this end, the marble-floored open-plan living area flows seamlessly with the pool, which is flanked with mature bangkian trees.

"The owner salvaged the bangkian from demolition sites," Leon says.

Adding to the Asian feel is a plate-glass window that frames a translucent backlit

marble feature wall and curved Buddha statue, which sits on a stainless-plinth.

"As you see walking through the house, the finishes are a combination of glass, mirror, timber veneers, polished plaster and natural stone," Shayne says.

The myriad mirrored surfaces, which add a strong sense of space and intrigue to the interior, were Leon's brainchild.

"We used bronze mirrors, not harsh silver ones," Leon says.

"I love the subtlety of them because they're not shiny. They clean down well, make you look like you have a tan and give you a different outlook. It's amazing to see life in reverse."

The mirrors in the kitchen and master bedroom's ensuite are truly magic. At the press of a button, they transform into televisions so the clients can chill out and watch a prime-time show from the comfort of their free-standing bath or tune into the morning news while they make coffee.

"I don't like in-your-face TV," Leon says. "Technology isn't always good for design, but these are a great gimmick without being gimmicky."

While Leon was keen to conceal the TVs, he

didn't want to hide the fact that there were two kitchens.

"I don't like the way second kitchens get cut off in other homes," he says.

"I like people being able to communicate, so we installed a special glass division that selectively obscures the storage and work surfaces, while enabling the cook to keep an eye on the lads or chat to friends and family members."

The main kitchen is a social hub of the home. Leon says it could accommodate 40 people for a cocktail party while the catering worked behind the glass partition.

Shayne says it's an exciting place to come home to.

"The clients contacted me five years ago to start working on this project and the timeless, organic approach that we took means it looks just as good as, if not better than, we anticipated," he says. "This home reflects the things they enjoy most in life."

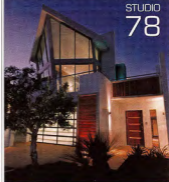
Sandra Peterson

This award-winning home was five years in the making. Pictures: Dave Adams and Peter Elroy





STUDIO
78



A home that demands attention.



With soaring walls of rated glass that frame the views, Studio 78 is a spacious home over three levels that offers the best of both indoor and outdoor lifestyles.



Four spacious bedrooms, an expansive kitchen overlooking the open-plan living area, and the added bonus of the 'loft' makes Studio 78 a versatile home.



Platinum Homes specialises in designing and constructing quality, unique homes designed to suit your block, family, lifestyle and budget.

GET THE LOOK

■ Building designer: Shayne Le Roy, Shayne Le Roy Group, Andrews, phone: 9316 8986, www.shayneleroydesigns.com.au

■ Interior designer: Leon Haines, Leon Haines Design, Andrews, phone: 9316 8446, www.leonhaines.net

■ Bath Remodelling: Paulo Barreto

■ Landscaping: Jo Taylor, Taylor Landscaping, Musgrave Park, phone: 9236 4922

■ Pool: Exclusive Pools, Balclutha, phone: 9244 2346, www.exclusivepools.com.au

■ Flooring: Bernini Stone & Tiles, Seaford, phone: 9388 1193

This home won the Best Residential Interiors award at the Building Designers Association of WA Design Excellence Awards 2005. It also received a commendation in the Single Residences over \$500k category.

Visit the Studio 78 display home:

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