



This Marmion home was designed to capture extensive views of the sea and the Hills.

Living it up by the seaside



LEN FINDLAY

Forget the Rottneest views. From this imposing home you could just about see South Africa.

The house was custom built for a farming couple by Manor Home Builders and sits high above Marmion with 135-degree views of the ocean and the Hills.

In addition to four bedrooms and three bathrooms, it has a huge living-dining-kitchen area, conservatory/sunroom, three-car garage, two studies, interior lift, indoor water feature, hidden TV and even a small kitchen cupboard for all those appliances which need to be recharged.

Designer Gary Brown said: "It is all part of what we do as custom builders. We try to make life easier for our clients."

From the outside, the

two-storey home's sweeping skillion roof is a stand-out. And its slope is utilised inside the home, giving height, space and interest to the main living areas, which are on the upper level. "Upside-down living," is how Mr Brown put it.

The home uses travertine cladding on pillars and a feature wall and has two outdoor water features in the front yard.

The high entrance is lit by a one-level chandelier and there is a water feature under the stainless-steel and wood stairs.

Mr Brown said: "Because of the wooden floor and stairs, we felt it had a marina feel, so we had little cracks put between the timber on the landing above the water feature, allowing it to be seen."

The clients' demand was for views, and they have them in spades.

On the bottom level there are three bedrooms, one of them a guest room with an ensuite which can be accessed from the hallway.

There is also a main bathroom with shower and two vanities, and a large laundry. The bedrooms all have views and look to the pool.

On this level there is also a living area that leads to the pool

and which also has views to two sides. A stainless-steel spiral staircase leads from the side of the home to the upper-level sunroom/conservatory. For the less energetic, there is an indoor lift.

The balcony of the upper level becomes a feature of the lower level since it has been designed in cantilever principle, with no posts, and affords shade.

A big landing at the top of the stairs leads to two studies and the main living area: a whopping 11m x 7m, with a large kitchen attached. The kitchen has been finished in white and has a two-sink island and high-quality appliances.

The rake of the skillion roof is seen to advantage here. Beside this area is a big room, glassed on two sides, which can be used as a conservatory or as an open area, depending on the weather conditions. The windows can be fully closed or open or the top half can be opened. There is a barbecue at one end and — again — views.

The main suite is on the upper level and has a walk-in changing room and an ensuite with eight towel rails, twin showers and vanities. In the bedroom there is a nine-pane window from the floor to 2.4m so the owners can wake up to the views.

Yael K Designs supplied much of the interior and came up with a stylish cabinet against one wall which — at the push of a remote — opens and brings a giant TV screen into view.

To help maintain the clean look of the home, Mr Brown designed it with no cornices and

