

Custom Built

10

HIA-ANZ Housing Awards 2006

Perfectly

SALLY-ANN JONES

"Contemporary but not clinical, honed rather than polished, subtle without being beige."

This is how builder Dean Reynolds describes the Minim Cove home he has just finished work on.

With its attractive stack-stone angled pillars, cedar eaves, garage door, window trims, front gate and fence, this house has an earthy, almost retro appeal and stands out from the crowd.

On a 350sqm block, the two-storey house provides 360sqm of living space and, with its big windows and high ceilings, is bright and airy.

Mr Reynolds said its ability to make the most of the winter sunlight was a drawcard.

Another was the fact that it had several courtyards so that its occupants could enjoy being outside whatever the season and no matter which direction the breeze was blowing from.

If the main courtyard, a covered alfresco area at the back with views of the river, harbour and Gage Roads, became unpleasant with a stiff sea breeze, the owners could migrate around the side to a sheltered courtyard or even to

the front where they could enjoy being outside while relishing the privacy afforded by the high timber fence.

The slight natural slope of the block was turned to advantage, with the wide entry sitting slightly higher than the main part of the ground floor and the children's bedrooms at the front of the house on the second floor, which is two steps higher than the landing and the parents' retreat, creating a delineation between zones.

A floating staircase not only enables use of the space under the stairs, but also lets in plenty of light from the ceiling-height windows behind it.

The ground floor, apart from the foyer which is tiled in Technoquartz (a material also used in the bathrooms and courtyards), is of light-coloured blackbutt.

A guest suite, which could also be a study, with a bathroom and separate toilet, is at the front; the main living and entertaining area is at the back to enjoy the views and 9m lap-pool.

This section of the house is particularly attractive, with American rock maple cabinetry and CaesarStone benchtops.

Gaggenau appliances have



Unusual pillars catch the eye.



at home all year

This week we feature a selection of entrants in our coverage of the housing awards. See also pages 12-13, 16, 18, 21, 22-23, and 42-43.

been used in the kitchen, which also has stainless-steel-lined Innotech drawers and a dishwasher and separate fridge and freezer integrated behind timber with stainless-steel rod handles.

Upstairs are the two children's bedrooms, one with a door opening to a balcony overlooking the front garden, the other with a three-tiered wraparound corner window. These rooms share a bathroom with a separate toilet.

The parents' retreat — a big lounge room with a balcony and the main suite — shares the top storey with the minor bedrooms but claims all the river and ocean views.

Even the bath, which is built into a corner with a concertina window



Custom Built:
\$650,001-\$800,000

Suburb: Mosman Park
Builder: Manor Home Builders
Phone: 9409 8655
Design: Designwise

around it that can be opened completely, has views of the action on the water below.

Hansgrohe tapware, Laufen basins, baths and toilets, recessed ceilings in some rooms, intelligent electric systems and a double garage with storage add to the appeal.



An earthy, almost retro feel makes this house stand out from the crowd.