



Worlds apart and united by trust

■ Maureen Eppen

Canadian and Australian housing design influences are evident in this palatial three-level home, which was created for a family of six resettling in Perth after more than 10 years in Vancouver.

Built by Signature Custom Homes to a design by Gary Keen Design, the sprawling six-bedroom, six-bathroom home occupies a commanding position on a 2000sqm elevated site in Peppermint Grove.

Boasting more than 1100sqm of floor space, the home includes several choices for formal and informal living and dining, extensive outdoor entertainment areas, a purpose-built theatre room, a cellar, sports bar, gymnasium and two double garages, plus a pool house.

Owners Donna and Simon Jackson were based in Vancouver with their four children during construction of the home but had a lot of design input and were in frequent contact with Signature Custom Homes managing director David Steadman.

Mrs Jackson said when first sitting down with Mr Steadman and the design team it was like a tennis match, with possibilities and ideas going back and forth.



The facade is distinctive. Pictures: D-Max Photography

"I have no design or decorating ability but I knew what we wanted in our home and I knew what we needed to include," Mrs Jackson said.

"Some elements of the design we have taken from our time in Canada and some ideas are from here and I think the combination works really well."

Mr Steadman said the home was the biggest and most complex single residence the Signature team had worked on to date.

"I guess the most significant factor was the level of trust the clients placed in us from the beginning and the enormous weight of responsibility for myself and my team to deliver on promises and fulfil their trust," he said.

From the street, the home's

distinctive facade combines extensive glazing, polished plaster, chunky drystone piers and cedar highlights, with a combination of aggregate and basalt paving.

Beyond the American oak front door, the entry features 180mm-wide smoked and limed-oak floorboards, and a dropped bulkhead for a gallery effect.

Low veneer plinths divide the entry and formal living area, to the right, where two-storey-tall corner windows flank a polished plaster wall and fireplace, with a built-in bar at one end.

To the left, Mr Jackson's office is a practical yet sophisticated space, isolated from the main living areas and bedrooms, ensuring overnight conferences with northern-hemisphere colleagues do not disturb the rest of the family.

A striking custom, aged-oak screen is a focal point in the approach to the kitchen, where natural and composite stone benchtops and an aged-oak breakfast bar contrast with lacquered cabinets, veneered shelves and gleaming steel appliances, including a Sub-Zero fridge and freezer and a Wolf stove similar to one the family used in Canada.

A walk-through scullery offers extra bench and storage space, near a link to a purpose-built craft room with mobile workbench, built-in desks and customised shelves for card-making and scrapbooking supplies. One wall is the backdrop for a map of Vancouver.

A cosy nook, with fireplace and built-in cabinetry, is tucked between the lift and staircase and connected to a

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The three-storey home features both Canadian and Australian design influences.



separate family room overlooking the outdoor living and alfresco areas, accessed through an oversized glazed door from the dining area.

Outdoor features include a built-in heater, barbecue, wood-fired pizza oven, drawer fridge, built-in Esky-style drinks cooler and ice-maker, all positioned to take in views across the backyard and neighbouring properties to the Swan River.

A drop zone near the personal door from the double garage tucked into the left side of the home has four locker-style cabinets with colour-coded interiors — one for each of the couple's three sons and daughter — to catch school and sports gear.

There's also an elegant powder room with timber-lined vanity recess, and a streamlined laundry.

Upstairs, the opulent main



suite has full-height glazing and opens to a corner balcony to capitalise on river views.

The customised bed has a retractable TV at the foot, and the ensuite has a stone-topped vanity unit, hobless shower with frameless screen, and a “Lady Gaga-

style” elliptical freestanding bath.

Mrs Jackson added a whimsical chandelier in the dressing room, which has an ironing station, shoe shelves and staggered hanging space, with extra height for full-length gowns.

The four children's bedrooms are also on this level, each with an elegant but practical ensuite.

The daughter's room has access to a private balcony, while the sons' rooms are close to a shared lounge room.

Mr Jackson had considerable input into the design of the basement level of the home, which is geared for relaxation and recreation. It houses a private guest suite, gymnasium, games room, sports bar and temperature-controlled cellar.

The theatre room has been designed for optimum acoustics and has platforms for staggered seating.

“The idea is that you could have about 20 people here to watch a movie or just two people and it would still have a fantastic atmosphere,” Mrs Jackson said.

Glazed doors link the games room and sports bar to

another spacious alfresco area, overlooking a sunken fire pit, landscaped garden beds and elevated rectangular pool and spa, beyond a frameless glass fence with rustic stone gatehouse and water feature.

This alfresco area also has a barbecue, drinks trough, drawer fridge and ice-maker, and there's another drinks trough and fridge in the pool area, near a pool house with shower, toilet and vanity facilities.

Here, there is also space for a basketball practice area near the driveway to the second double garage — with storage space for ice-hockey gear and other sports equipment — at the rear of the property.

CONTACT Signature Custom Homes, 9335 6288, signaturehomes.com.au; Gary Keen Design, 9335 2644, designmanagement.com.au.

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