

# Concept inspired out of Africa

■ Maureen Eppen

A striking painting of African women and children, in shades of blue and brown, inspired the colour scheme for this light-filled home with panoramic views across the Canning River and Perth city skyline.

Built by Signature Custom Homes and designed by Shayne Le Roy and Signature director David Steadman, the two-storey Applecross home has a C-shaped layout, with three wings wrapping around a sheltered outdoor living space.

The painting, by WA artist Christine Hingston, takes pride of place in the home's foyer, opposite another Hingston work depicting a bustling African marketplace.

"I don't like to have a lot of permanent features that define — I like to have everything quite neutral and would rather add colour with pictures, rugs and cushions," the owner said.

"The whole design of the house ties in with the colours I like, based around a painting I already had."

While capturing the views was the priority, the aim was to ensure the owners could comfortably occupy just the top floor of the home once their teenage daughters had grown up and left home.

From the street, the home combines broad expanses of glass with a feature blade wall of stacked honed basalt, and a full-width balcony extending around the side of the home, with a timber-lined ceiling.

An oversized timber pivoting door opens to the foyer, bathed in natural light and finished with travertine flooring that



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## 2015 HIA-Polytec Perth Housing Awards

**Category** Custom-built home \$2,600,001 and over; residential building designer  
**Location** Applecross  
**Company** Signature Custom Homes  
**Contact** 9335 6288, signaturehomes.com.au

extends through indoor and outdoor living areas and thoroughfares.

Tucked around to the left is the first of two studies, which looks out across the front garden to yachts moored or moving on the river.

Next to the open-tread timber, glass and steel staircase is a lift, ensuring

the home is futureproofed.

On the other side of the foyer, full-height corner windows facing the river, lap and plunge pool and timber-lined alfresco area fill front and back walls of the entertainment room, with a kitchenette tucked in one corner.

A glazed door at the back opens to the alfresco area, where the feature basalt of the front elevation forms a huge screen wall between the pool area and an open-tread stone and glass external staircase, linked to the upstairs terrace.

Inside again, full-height glazing lines one side of a corridor past mirror-image bedrooms for the couple's two teenage daughters, each with



a coloured feature wall of polished plaster. Upstairs, the kitchen, dining area and main living area occupy a big open-plan space at the front of the home, surrounded by the wraparound balcony and boasting uninterrupted river and city views.

The kitchen is functional and streamlined, with integrated fridges, freezers and dishwashers, Miele appliances, and a bold blue splashback.

It has a chunky composite stone breakfast bar, with a block of veined black stone for contrast at one end. Frosted glass doors reveal a walk-through scullery.

The black stone also appears in other areas, including the plinth for an

ethanol heater, to one side of the living area.

Strategically positioned glazed doors connect to the wraparound balcony and an entertaining terrace and barbecue area with more magnificent views.

At the back of the upper level, the main suite is a secluded haven, also designed with the views in mind.

"We spent the earlier years of our marriage in the Goldfields, in company housing, and this was the first time we have built," the owner said.

"Shayne and David were both very guiding — I think they understood where we were coming from, and saw the potential of what we could do with the place."

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