

## CUSTOM BUILT



Sliding doors open to an alfresco area with a roof lined with polished bamboo.

Pictures: Alistair Jupp



## Right ideas for a high energy rating

### ■ Deryn Thorpe

Andrew and Sharyn Murfin were enjoying living in Lathlain, until they discovered a spectacular riverside block in South Guildford that sparked their dreams of a new, efficient, family friendly home.

Right Homes took just 22 weeks to build their house and then they moved into a home with an impressive eight-star energy rating and a design that perfectly expresses their desire to live in a space where every room was used.

Features that make it a sustainable home include a 2.2kW photovoltaic system with a rainwater tank connected to the toilets and laundry, a solar hot-water system, ceiling fans, low-e glazing, cavity wall insulation and R4 ceiling insulation, which help the home maintain a comfortable temperature.

Mr Murfin was born in the UK, has lived in 31 different houses and had doubts about living in a home without air-conditioning. However, he says the home keeps cool when the temperatures climb and is so warm in winter they don't need heating.

The couple have two young boys and wanted a home that suited their lifestyle, so the fourth bedroom has been reconfigured as a playroom and will graduate to a study room as they grow.

Mr Murfin has a small study by the front door, making it convenient to conduct business meetings. Builder Gary Wright encouraged them to include a second door between the study and living areas to minimise noise from

the family area. There are no formal areas because the couple did not use them in their previous home.

Other unusual features include an extra-height triple garage to house a caravan, a family bathroom with twin-recessed sinks and the smart white kitchen has a big pantry — reflecting Mr Murfin's former life as a chef — and takes advantage of the bucolic outlook.

Accommodation was made for personal touches too. In the laundry, a handpainted tile created by their oldest son at kindergarten was set into the splashback and a space has been left for a matching tile from their youngest son.

All windows in the home take advantage of river and parkland views and sliding doors open to an alfresco area with a roof lined with polished bamboo, one of many good ideas the Murfin's said came from their builder.

Mr Murfin could not speak too highly of Mr Wright, who, he said had building standards that far exceeded his own. Having previously built with other companies, he said he would never again consider building with any other company.

One example of Mr Wright's fastidious approach was his decision when the tiles in the living room were laid about 2cm away from one wall.

"I said 'Don't worry as we will put some furniture over it so we won't see it', but he made the tiler pull up 100sqm of tiles and do it again," Mr Murfin said.

■ The home was an entry in the 2012 HIA Perth Housing Awards in the custom built homes \$350,001 to \$475,000 category. Phone Right Homes on 0421 624 181.

