

## DISPLAY HOME



The owners wanted a home they could comfortably grow old in. Pictures: Alistair Jupp

## Built with an eye to future change

■ Raquel de Brito

Combining sustainability with a livable design, the owners of this Viveash home have built a residence they can comfortably grow old in.

Annabel Mazzella did extensive research to ensure the home was one she and her husband Scott Gardner could enjoy well into their senior years.

Mr Gardner, who is surrounded by environmental scientists at work, wanted to ensure the home was also energy-efficient and affordable.

When it came to deciding on a builder, the couple said choosing Right Homes was an easy decision, with its expertise in solar-passive design.

Sustainability starts upon entering the home, with a closed-off entry allowing the couple to seal in the heat or cold.

Most of the windows have pelmets, not just for their aesthetic appeal.

"In summer, the heat rises and gets trapped in the pelmets so you don't get the heat circulating as much. When you open up the house it flushes out all the heat," Mr Gardner said.

Ms Mazzella said the thick solar curtains kept the sunlight out, while insulation was used in the roof and all the walls.

The spacious kitchen has Spanish granite benchtops and a low-energy induction cooktop. All taps throughout the house are also low-energy.

"I did some research on our future needs and in the future we might have to share the house with another family



member because of the ageing population," she said.

"So where we could, we tried to create two of every thing. For example, we have two pantries."

Another solar-passive consideration was tinting the windows.

A big window was used in the north-east facing kitchen, allowing for maximum sun in the winter and minimum sun in the summer.

"In winter, we have the blind up in the kitchen to heat up the tiles so the tiles stay warm throughout the day, which keeps the house warm," Mr Gardner said.

The whole house has wheelchair access, including the guest wing with wide doors and a wheelchair-friendly bathroom. He said he loved the spacious main suite with big ensuite, including double showers and twin vanities.

A third bedroom, with built-in robes, is used as a study.

Livability was also considered when it came to designing the outdoor area, with Ms Mazzella steering clear of pebbles, a safety risk to the elderly.

Even the location of the home was in line with the couple's aim for a practical lifestyle.

"One of the things of sustainable living is being close to hub or transport routes so you don't have to jump into a car every time you want to go to the markets or into town, and this is within walking distance to amenities," Ms Mazzella said.

■ The home was an entry in the 2013 HIA Perth Housing Awards in the liveable homes category. For inquiries phone Right Homes on 9355 0374.



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