



The galley kitchen has granite benchtops and stainless-steel splashbacks.



# Builder meets tough design challenge

## DENISE CAHILL

When large residential blocks are subdivided, it is generally straight down the middle creating long, narrow blocks.

But at 20m wide and 10m deep, this block in Victoria Park was the complete opposite and presented plenty of challenges for builders Exclusive Residence.

Even the owners Gayle MacFarlane and husband Robert Murray were aware of the difficulties in coming up with a family home with plenty of space which packed a punch visually despite the pocket-sized block.

But the end product, completed in about nine months, is visually stunning and filled with plenty of the couple's design requirements, including a kitchen cool room.

"We have always wanted a cool room," Ms MacFarlane said. "I have a big family and we are always entertaining."

To fit the 273sqm home on the 203sqm block, it was built over three levels. It was also built from

boundary fence to boundary fence, with the entry about 1m from the road.

The family living areas and kitchen are on the ground level, two bedrooms on the first, with a study, lounge and another bedroom on the top floor.

Ceramic tiling has been used in the open-plan kitchen, dining and family living area while the bedrooms and loft are carpeted.

The upper levels are mezzanine style, which creates a sense of height and space as well as linking all the areas of the house.

Perhaps the most striking feature is the 8m high cathedral-style grey glass windows, used as much for their thermal and energy efficiency as their visual impact, overlooking the paved outdoor entertaining area. In the winter, the sun comes in through the windows which also block out any of the summer sun.

The windows also allow each level of the house views to the alfresco area. Doors on the lower level open to the alfresco area, which has a water feature.



**Small Lot Housing Project of the Year, Small Lot Housing Project \$500,001 and over**

**Suburb:** Victoria Park  
**Builder:** Exclusive Residence  
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