

WINNER 2013



All the floor levels in this home built by Devrite Constructions are flush.



SPECIAL PURPOSE

This project was special from the start for Devrite Constructions, which set a benchmark in design with this award-winning, environmentally sensitive home to meet the needs of a teenager with disabilities and his family

DESIGNED and built around the needs of a profoundly disabled teenager, this inspirational Claremont home has picked up two prestigious Master Builders awards for Devrite Constructions.

Awarding it the title of Most Liveable Home, the judges agreed it was a beautiful house that was capable of meeting the changing needs of a family of all ages and abilities.

They also praised its water-saving features, declaring it the winner of the Waterwise Award.

Jay Mangano, co-owner at Devrite, says the home not only reflects a commitment to sustainability, but it also accommodates long-term requirements for round-the-clock care and a vast array of special equipment.

"It's a spacious and remarkable house that sets a benchmark in design for people with disabilities and their families," Jay says.

"Although the original brief was to build

this special home for a teenager confined to a wheelchair, it was obvious that this was also to be a place where happy and sometimes mischievous siblings and their friends could find adventure and have fun."

Home to a family of six, the house was to be ultra modern and environmentally energy efficient, with the addition of a greywater system, rainwater harvesting system, solar hot-water system, solar panels to generate electricity and a solid wood fire with fan-forced heating to the bedrooms.

"It was definitely not to have a hospital feel about it," Jay says. "All floor levels and door thresholds were to be flush and level, and the large tree that the children loved to play in was to stay and be incorporated into the house via a specially built super-large roof skylight."

Ceilings in the home were reinforced to take a tracking system that was imported from the US to operate the hoist between the teenager's

bedroom, his bathroom and his physiotherapy area. A small pool has also been installed off the deck leading out from his bathroom.

Walls of glass and warmth-absorbing black tiles in the north-facing living areas help keep the house warm in winter, while good cross-ventilation helps keep it cool during the summer.

It's been a special project for Devrite, which enlisted the support of its suppliers to help keep costs down.

PAULA EVANS



Winner

**MOST LIVEABLE HOME;
WATERWISE AWARD**

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