

## PERTH HOUSING AWARDS 2013

# Special needs met with owner input

■ John Videnieks

As the skillion roof angles off in alternate directions, it becomes evident that this is a home that has had a lot of thought put into it. The roof inclination is not just a whim; it is elevated to the north to allow for ceiling-height windows to encourage natural cross-ventilation in the home.

This sort of detail represents the input of owners Nicky and Peter Netherway, who engaged Devrite Constructions to design and construct this purpose-built home in Mt Claremont. Not only were they committed to passive-solar and environmentally sound principles but they were building with the needs of their disabled son very much in mind.

The design incorporates wider doors for wheelchair access, ceiling slides for hoist movement and visual and auditory monitoring access.

"I spent hours on the design only because I knew what I wanted for my son," Ms Netherway said.

"Information like that can be hard to relate to someone else, so I did get a lot down on paper. Then Devrite's designer Dean Bell got all the spaces right and the actual look of the home.

"We are a six-member family, each of the children has a room of their own and then we have a second living room at the front. It's perfect, we use all the spaces and the kids have a second living area to go to."

One major constraint to the design was the need to keep a mature tree at the back. This placed some limitations on the length of the house but led to the creation of an elevated deck and a glass-roofed section which frames the branches, leaves and sky.

The kitchen and open-plan living area look out through a wall of bi-folds to a grassed area and swimming pool. The beauty of the north-facing orientation comes into play as the sunshine fills the area.

An added passive-solar technique is the use of dark porcelain tiles on the floor area.

"We get a lot of warmth from these tiles until about 10 o'clock at night."

At every turn there is evidence of sustainability, be it ventilation louvres at the front door, corresponding windows above the splashback in the kitchen or the rainwater tanks at the side of the home.

This is a home built to serve a number of well-defined purposes. The Netherways agreed that it was great to be involved in the design process because then the outcome really was what they wanted.



## HIA Perth Housing Awards 2013

**Category** Custom Built Home \$475,001 to \$625,000; Liveable Home; Residential Building Designer

**Company** Devrite Constructions

**Phone** 9361 1131

**Location** Mt Claremont



The kitchen and living area look out to the swimming pool. Pictures: Joel Barbitta