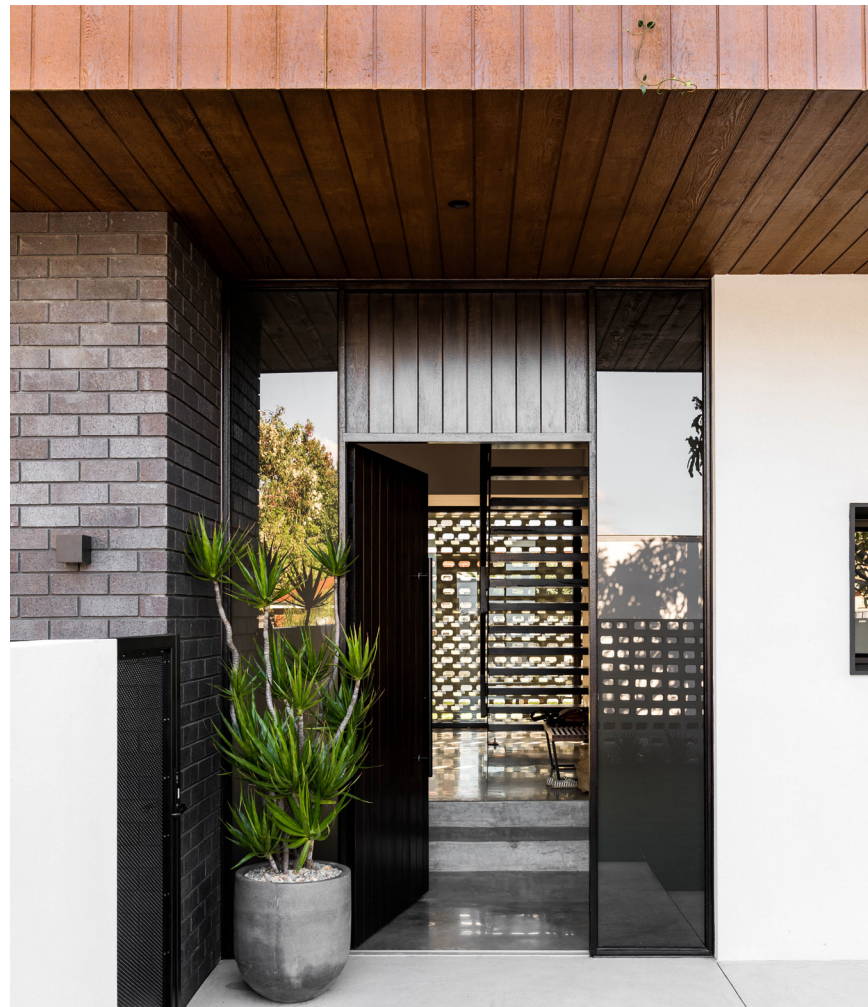




**WINNER: DESIGNER NEW HOME**  
Dalecki Design, Perth





# Heart of light

Fussy detailing is avoided in this new home, where sculptural forms, strong materiality and sustainability hold sway

*Previous pages:* Timber cladding, dark brickwork and a painted steel garage door come together to create a compositional balanced facade on this home by Dalecki Design.

*This page:* On entry, guests look through the stairs and a breeze block wall to the central courtyard.

*Facing page:* The living zone's dark tones balance the natural light that floods into the room. The darker hues also make the room feel cosy at night.

**Wrapping round a sheltered, private open-air space,** courtyard homes attract plenty of natural light and connect the indoors with the outdoors at every turn – a great blueprint for this green home.

The homeowners' brief was for a light-filled, passive-solar home with a strong mixed material palette and fluid links to the outdoor spaces and nature, says designer Janik Dalecki.

"In addition, the design had to offer distinct living zones, so the owners' children could have a sense of their own space when they are older."

The home's emphasis on materiality is seen right from the street, the front facade a pleasing

composition of rich, warm timber, dark brick cladding and white render – with the garage in dark steel. Apart from the steel, these surfaces feature in various ways throughout the home, as does the white breeze block of the front fence.

"And it's the materiality that draws you into the home, as well," Dalecki says. "The warm timber cladding wraps in under the wall plane to form the soffits. At the front entry, the wood extends right inside the hall, leading the way."

A few steps inside, the hallway soars up to 2.5 levels in height. As well as creating drama, the lofty proportions allow for large clerestory











*Previous pages:* A feature cast-in-situ concrete wall with all imperfections retained offers a rugged counterpart to the polished concrete floor. The latter acts as a heat sink in the home – soaking up the day’s rays to then release the warmth back into the interior at night, when the air is cooler. A Rolf Benz sofa, Herman Miller Crosshatch chair, and Tom Dixon Offcut side table are some key pieces in the open-plan space, along with a Sahar Tessuto rug, and Gubi Grashoppa floorstanding light.

windows to access the northern light and lighten up what is often the darkest part of a home. “Along with a dramatic height, the hallway includes a wall in the same dark brick as the cladding, with designated bricks arranged to create a pattern that lightens in density as it rises. Another feature of the entry space is the riserless staircase, with treads in jarrah repurposed from the original home on the site.” Riserless stair treads bring the advantage of transparency when looking from the front door down the hall and through a see-through breeze block wall to the central courtyard.

The home is efficiently arranged, with three bedrooms and a secondary lounge/play room upstairs, and the main living and dining zone, master suite, and other spaces downstairs – an ideal separation for teenage years ahead. At the end of the hall, by the breeze block wall, the living and dining zone is directly to the left, with the kitchen at the near end of the room. As with the home, the kitchen lacks fussy detail, such as cabinet handles, to let its materiality shine. The living area also includes the dark brick for one of its two feature walls. The other is in situ-cast concrete with all imperfections

retained. The rugged latter surface also connects with the polished concrete floor slab. One side of the living space includes floor-to-ceiling windows looking out to an ornamental pond while the other side opens up via sliders to the courtyard, outdoor dining area and pool. “The home’s orientation allows the sun to penetrate via the courtyard directly into the main living areas, heating the exposed concrete slab. The concrete’s thermal mass acts as a heat sink, releasing warmth back into the rooms at night.” Passive control over temperature is added in other ways, too. The pond outside the living



room helps cool warm summer breezes before they travel through the home. And to further maximise solar gain in winter, the alfresco area is pulled away from the main living zone, providing another, lower angle for the northern sun to penetrate deep into the interior. Other green factors are Low-E glazing, a solar power unit, an in-ground rainwater collection tank and a heat pump hot water system. Given that the home covers a large area of the site, rooftop gardens were introduced as additional landscaping. Every room in the home, upstairs and down, looks out to nature.

*Above left:* The upstairs lounge – or playroom – has similar finishes to the living room directly below. Furniture in this room includes a Tom Dixon Offcut side table, a Rolf Benz coffee table, Rolf Benz cushions, and another Sahar Tessuto rug. *Above:* The master ensuite has a luxury aesthetic with the vanity finished in walnut veneer with a white engineered stone benchtop. Marble-look engineered-stone wall tiles complete the look.





**House designer:** Janik Dalecki, Dalecki Design  
**Builder:** Limitless Building  
**Kitchen designer:** Dalecki Design  
**Interior design and landscape design:** Dalecki Design and Limitless Building  
**Pool design:** Dalecki Design  
**Cladding:** Weathertex; Elements Zinc bricks, by Austral Bricks; black mortar  
**Roof:** Colorbond  
**Windows:** Jason Windows, residential and commercial ranges, custom black,  
**Garage door:** Tower sectional garage door, finished in Colorbond Monument  
**Breeze blocks:** Brikmakers masonry blocks – 150 Series  
**Main flooring:** Burnished concrete  
**Stair treads:** Recycled jarrah, stained black  
**Stair balustrading:** Perforated metal, black powdercoat  
**Paint:** Dulux  
**Lighting:** Radiant Lighting  
**Kitchen cabinetry:** Egger laminate in black under bench and Polytec laminate in Black, Woodmatt overhead  
**Kitchen benchtops:** Bianco Romano granite, brushed  
**Splashback:** Smoked, bronzed mirror  
**Kitchen sink and mixer:** Abbey  
**Oven, microwave, cooktop, dishwasher:** Siemens  
**Rangehood:** Schweigen  
**Ensuite vanity:** Polytec veneer in Florentine Walnut  
**Ensuite vanity splashback:** Caesarstone in Calacatta Nuvo  
**Vanity handles:** Tilla Handle by Kethy, black stained timber with copper stems; Tilla Radio Knob, black painted with brass plated ring  
**Ensuite tiles:** Interno 9 Silver Italian rectified porcelain in Natural finish by ABK; Trilogy Sky Smoke Italian rectified porcelain in soft finish by Panaria

**Awards:** Trends International Design Awards (TIDA) Homes – Winner

**Story by** Charles Moxham  
**Photography by** Dion Robeson

**Facing page:** Pulling the covered alfresco dining area away from the living zone optimises solar penetration onto the concrete floor slab, which acts as a heat sink.

**This page:** The upstairs lounge overlooks a roof garden and the alfresco dining area below that includes a Vitra furniture setting.

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