



Slideshow

 - The Australian Institute of Architects Award for Residential Architecture (WA)

> **Gallery Home**
> about the gallery
> errors, omissions, corrections
> gallery help
> find an architect
> using an architect

Rosser Street

by Paul Burnham Architect Pty Ltd



IN THE ARCHITECTS WORDS

The project is the design of a new house on a narrow elevated site with exception view potential. The client is a structural engineer / builder with experience in the development and construction of high quality residential projects. The project is required to fulfil various criteria : • to provide a successful family house for two adults and two young boys • to present a prominent showcase for the owners' residential construction business • to demonstrate a new contemporary building designed to maximise value within a limited budget • to optimise all available northern exposure The site is a narrow north facing property with excellent view potential from upper levels. The adjoining property was simultaneously developed and both owners/architects agreed on abutting boundary walls. The unusual natural features of the site allowed the basement garage to be effectively set at street level allowing for very elevated ground and first floor levels. The upper level has been raised to the maximum height permitted under the local scheme. The new residence is separated into two distinct zones. The ground floor comprises children's bedrooms and children's living areas, complete with separate kitchen facilities. The first floor contains the master bedroom, study, kitchen and main living area. The two separate living areas are both north facing spaces and each benefits from it's own distinct north facing outdoor living area. The ground floor internal &

external living areas are enclosed by a long lap pool and spa. The topography of the site allowed the pool to be located 1.5m from the front boundary and elevated some 3m above street level. This enabled the pool to be completely unseen from the street while remaining exposed to year round north sun. A narrow entry path and deeply set back entry contribute to the sense of privacy and seclusion. Entry down the long path gradually reveals the concealed pool. The design objective was to offset the narrow north facing frontage with numerous north penetrating windows to bring natural light, ventilation and winter sun throughout the length of the house. The solution was to articulate the building volume into five equal bays each distinguished with it's own north facing saw tooth roof window. The angled roof planes are in-situ concrete slabs, employed as device of substance. The concrete also offers outstanding insulation properties and remains a reference to the owner's occupation and previous enjoyment of concrete finishes. The owners expressed a willingness to create an exceptional residence and remained agreeable to engage uncommon finishes and features. The most successful aspects of the property appear to be the sense of privacy, the consistency of light quality and the uplifting sensation from the significant winter sunlight penetration throughout the building. Above all, the building is intended to be contemporary but not fashionable.

DETAILS

Location
WA

Architect
Paul Burnham Architect Pty Ltd

Project Team
Project architect: Paul Burnham
Structural consultant: RJ Thorpe & Associates
Interior designer: Andrea Hutcherson / Paul Burnham
Builder: Hutcherson Construction
Builder: Hutcherson Construction
Photographer: John Chisholm / Paul Burnham
Photographer: John Chisholm
Photographer: John Chisholm
Photographer: Paul Burnham
Photographer: Paul Burnham

Entered
2009

Photographs by John Chisholm / Paul Burnham, John Chisholm, John Chisholm, Paul Burnham & Paul Burnham, text by Paul Burnham Architect Pty Ltd

Link directly to this award entry: http://www.architecture.com.au/awards_search?option=showaward&entryno=2009068134

architecture.com.au is the website of The Royal Australian Institute of Architects
[Please read our copyright notice](#)

© 2009 The Australian Institute of Architects - Copyright notice

Disclaimer | Privacy policy

Coding and I-Photo technology © 2001-2009 I-Nex Corporation Pty Ltd