



Living the resort life makes family happy

An expensive coffee break led a Gwelup couple to build their own dream home in Sorrento.

Len Findlay reports.

David and Robin Blyth reckon the cups of coffee they sipped almost two years ago were their dearest drinks ever — but they also agree that they were the most worthwhile.

The pair were living in Gwelup and loved having a caffeine fix looking out on the Indian Ocean from one of the West Coast Highway's cafes. They saw a sign advertising a block for sale at Sorrento and, not quite on the spur of the moment but not too far off, viewed, then bought the Frobisher Avenue land.

Now they live in a modern, welcoming double-storey home which they love.

Brook Leber, of Residential Attitudes, designed the home in conjunction with the pair but mostly with Mrs Blyth.

"I came home and told David, 'I think he gets it'," she said. The

pair also agreed that supervisor Mark Ryan had done a great job.

Now they have a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home with what Mr Blyth calls "a serious office" and a stunning outdoor area. They also have a state-of-the-art kitchen, dining area, elongated breakfast bar and living area. The main living area has a feature wall of rustic stone by Archistone, which is matched by a pillar at the entry.

The home features lots of little alcoves and nooks with hidden lights playing on paintings and statuettes. Furniture for the home was all custom-made. Most of it was designed by Des Lewy when he was at Arq and later at Contempo. These companies also supplied most of the artworks.

The Blyths settled on three bedrooms as being big enough for them and their two adult daughters, plus two dogs and a cat. The main suite is downstairs

and on that level are the central living area, big office, laundry and wine cellar.

Upstairs has two bedrooms, plus a bathroom with shower and toilet and the home theatre.

Another feature of the home is the ceilings and cornices. The ceilings are raised in the middle, giving an extra feeling of space and the cornices are stepped. In the living area, the ceiling is gabled, with lots of downlights.

The alfresco area joins seamlessly to the home and is where the family spends much of its time. Adjoining a designed courtyard garden, it sets off a home which the Blyths say is "as close as we will ever get to living in a resort".

Supplier contacts: Residential Attitudes: 9202 9000; Arq Furniture: 9204 5177; Contempo: 9443 5439; Archistone: 9340 0088



The rustic stone pillar at this Sorrento home's front matches the feature wall in the main living area

