

HOME

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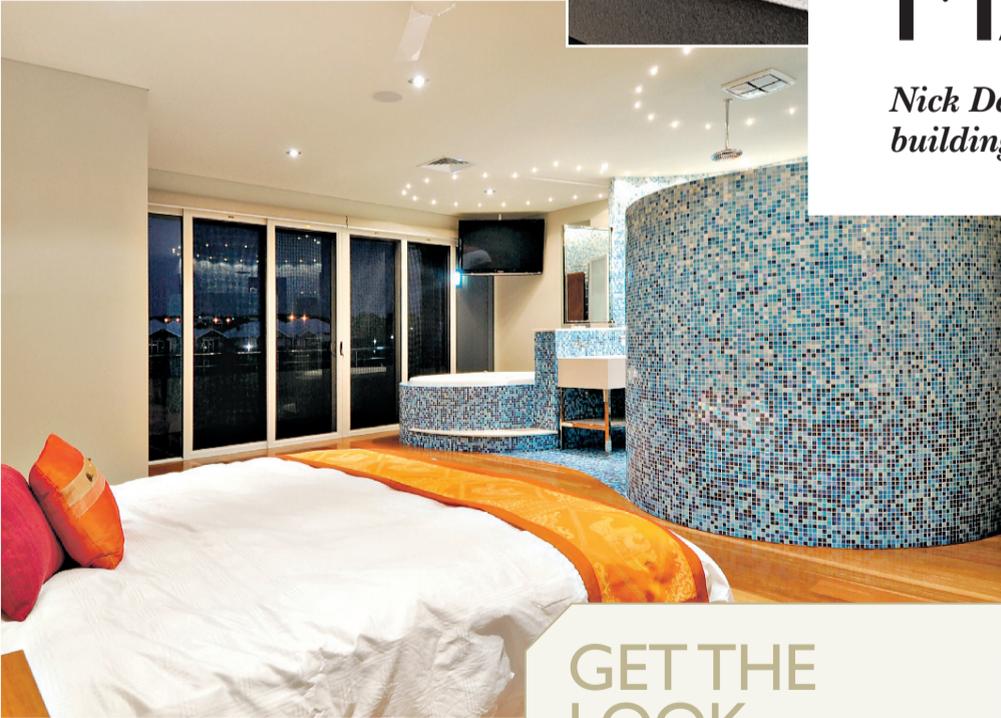
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CREATING A MASTERPIECE

Nick Del Borrello admits he is a one-man band, intensely passionate about building, and his own home is ample testimony to his expertise

WHEN boutique builder Nick Del Borrello gets an idea in his head, it's usually something out of the ordinary and something worth pursuing. So when he envisaged incorporating a cutting-edge and luxurious ensuite bathroom into his new Hillarys home, he knew it would get people talking.

The extravagant ensuite with a shell-like design is the centrepiece of the master bedroom and features Bisazza glass mosaics, a pivoting mirror and a huge spa overlooking the neighbouring parklands.

The curved shape of the bathroom eliminated the need for a glass shower screen to be installed because water could be contained within the space.

More than 50 lights were recessed into the ceiling outlining the shape of the bathroom while the curved stone bench and fascia were shaped by hand.

The spa pump is concealed under a custom-made, stainless steel ice-bucket at one end of the spa.

Nick, the director of SOL Construction, says putting the lavish bathroom together stretched everyone to the limit, but the final result was very rewarding for all the people involved.

"The ideas I have tend to stretch the boundaries a bit, but I think I've got an eye for detail and that's what makes something look great," he says.

"You step back once it's all finished and it's very satisfying. It's one of a kind and you know it's not something you will see anywhere else."

Plenty of thought also went into the design and construction of the contemporary and functional kitchen.

Detailed panelling co-ordinates the oven, cooktop and storage cupboards, while a freestanding pantry houses two fridges.

"I wanted the detail to be subtle and that's evident in the panels," Nick says.

"It looks in some ways a bit like a Lego design, but I think it works."

A seamless transition between the indoor and outdoor living areas was an important component of the brief given to the house's designer, Peter Fryer.

The three-storey home has a north-facing central courtyard on the ground floor that connects with the main living area and allows plenty of natural light to flow through the property.

Separate internal courtyards are also found on both sides of the residence and provide effective cross-ventilation.

GET THE LOOK

- * **Builder:** Nick Del Borrello of SOL Construction, Hillarys, phone: 0421 314 440
- * **Building designer:** Peter Fryer Design, Swanbourne, phone: 9384 6323
- * **Benchtops:** Marble & Granite Expo, Osborne Park, phone: 9444 0444
- * **Framework:** Allbend Engineering, Wangara, phone: 9302 2344, www.allbend.com.au
- * **Tiling:** Frank Germano, of Germano's Tiling, Joondanna, phone: 0418 943 576