

The arthouse

Home is where the Hart is ... in reality, home is where the Harts live, and also where the art lives



with
**MICHELE
STERNBERG**

FROM the moment the wide front entry gate, with its glass embossed signature dragonflies, opens you know you've arrived at the home of an artist.

And not just any artist ... this is the home of David Hart, his wife Christine and their three children Jake, Chloe and Harry.

"The front gate probably took more time to plan than anything else in the house," admits David.

"Because it is the front gate, it has to make a statement. I wanted people to know they had arrived at the home of an artist."

Once inside, though, there is no doubt.

On the walls hang paintings by David himself, by his father Pro and from other well-known artists including Robert Dickerson, Ron Davis and David Boyd.

David explains how a simple "renovation" resulted in what is really a new home.

"We only left the slab, one wall, the garage and a few pieces of timber," he says.

"We had bought a few different blocks of land with the idea of building a new home but, when it came down to it, we liked being here because it is so convenient and we decided to renovate instead."

The new home is a world away from its brick replica colonial-style predecessor, but still melds with the natural rural landscape of the site.

David and Christine spent a great deal of time planning their new home, looking at their family's requirements and planning for the future.



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The result is a big home, with designated sleep areas for both genders and a massive entertaining area suitable for all ages.

At the front of the home is a large home cinema with automated recliner chairs in black leather on the split-level floor. In here is one of David's favourite paintings, called *The Blind Leading the Blind* by Ron Davis.

"The figures are all blind and they're about to walk off a cliff ... I think it is very true of life," says David.

"When I came across it, mould had attacked the canvas and it was ready for the dump. I cleaned it and repainted a lot of it, and now it's as good as new!"

To the other side of the front entrance is Chloe's bedroom, decorated in varying shades of pink and purple with a rich purple suede-effect feature wall.

The boy's bedrooms are on the second level, on the opposite side of the home, and both are decorated to reflect Jake and Harry's different ages and personalities.

While one has CD sculptural pieces and funky lava lamps either side of a black and red bedspread, the other has a blue striped doona cover set against a light brown bedhead and elevated side tables.

The main bathroom on this level features rectangular mosaic tiles right along the back



wall, linking the shower, vanity and bath.

A picture window offers a bird's-eye view of the manicured lawns and gardens below.

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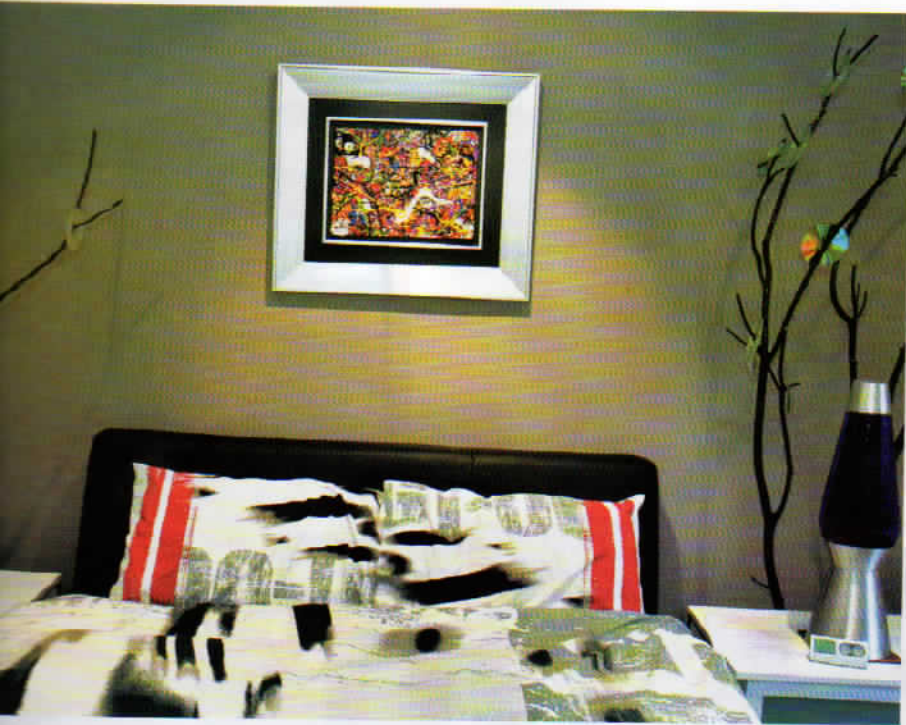


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David says his artistic flair and creativity tend to the garden, where he enjoys mowing, planting and maintaining the grounds.

The couple's bedroom, ensuite and massive walk-in wardrobe are located on the ground

level, with tranquil views out to the garden and pool from bed.

But undoubtedly their favourite area is the poolside gazebo, outdoor kitchen, games room and children's lounge which indulge their passion for entertaining.

Another clever design inclusion is the "homework hub", a room between the kitchen

and main lounge room designed especially for the children's school work.

"I love it because I can keep an eye on what they're doing on the internet and am on hand to help with their homework," says Christine.

"And when the shutters are open at either end, I can see from the kitchen right through to the TV in the lounge."

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Five fave things:



Fluffy cushion: Christine loved this soft, fluffy pale blue cushion from the moment she saw it, but has never told David how much it cost!



Painting: 'The blind leading the blind' by John Davis ... is very true of life.



Harley Davidson: "It's my pride and joy. There's nothing going for me if I don't ride in the Hinterland on my bike," says David.



Walk-in wardrobe: "I love having all this space for our clothes so they're not all squashed in and I can find things easily," says Christine.



Front gate: With the signature dragonflies embossed in the glass panel, it is a fitting welcome for visitors to the artist's home.

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