



# Sun and heat dictate plan

Mandy, James and Caleb Brennan. Pictures: Gerald Moscarda

■ Tamara Hunter

A serious overshadowing problem forced James and Mandy Brennan and builder Swell Homes to get creative with this slim-line home on a subdivided White Gum Valley lot.

Mr Brennan said the overshadowing created by the relatively new home next door hadn't been a problem before the subdivision.

When the block's owners sold a chunk of their yard and created the 10m-wide,

310sqm lot later bought by the Brennans, the problem quickly became apparent. The carved-off land was in the shadow of its tall northerly neighbour.

Swell Homes director Anthony Pillinger said increasing urban density meant more people were at risk of losing solar access as the bigger lots of old were subdivided and built out.

The Brennans didn't mind too much — in other respects the block was what they were looking for. The size, price and location close to

### 2015 WA HIA GreenSmart Awards

**Category** GreenSmart Framed Home  
**Location** White Gum Valley  
**Company** Swell Homes  
**Contact** 0438 388 892, swellhomes.com.au

Fremantle suited them and they were happy to work with Swell Homes' design arm to come up with a two-storey, weatherboard-clad three-bedroom, two-bathroom home which dealt with the

solar challenge and made the most of the available space.

"We knew what rooms and the kinds of material we wanted," Mr Brennan said.

Swell created a heat sink by carving a central courtyard out of the northern side of the design and suggesting the southern wall of the kitchen and living area be recycled face brick. This would enable the winter sun to stream through big double-glazed windows and doors and hit the wall and polished concrete floors. The two surfaces would work together

to trap warmth, with Swell's innovative hidden convection wall detail helping to radiate the heat throughout the day and evening.

The recycled brick wall, which dominates the main living areas, extends into a bedroom and bathroom within the minor wing at the rear of the ground floor. This wing has a second minor bedroom, second living area, and access from the rear-loaded double garage.

The main suite is upstairs and the ensuite has floor-to-ceiling tiles.



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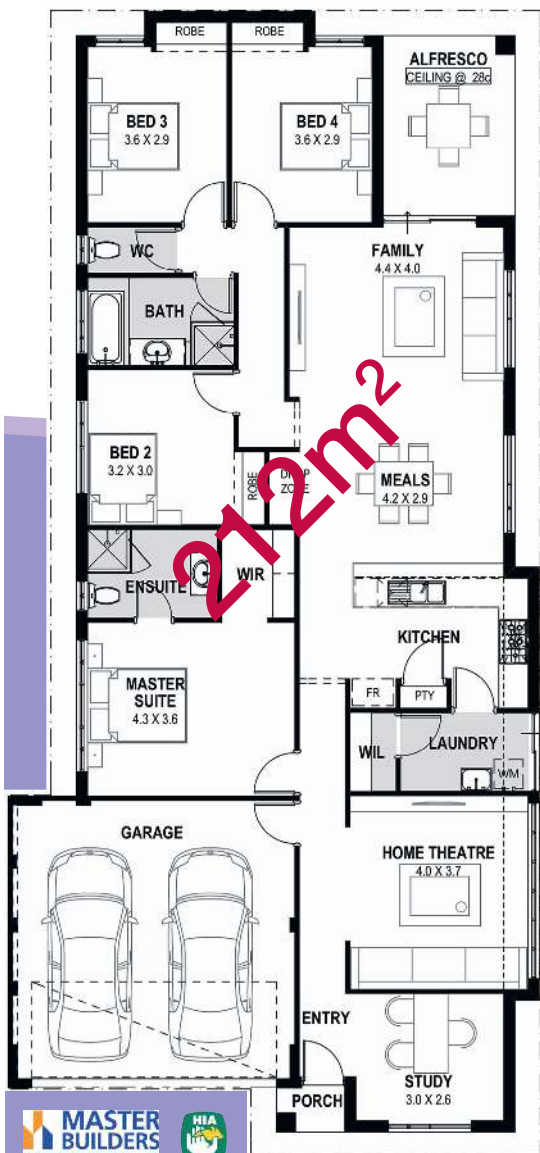
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