

Where the Heart is – Beechwood Homes

> Text by Tim Roberts, Photography courtesy of Beechwood Homes



2017 Winner
AGGA South Australia –
Residential Under \$20K

Federation Glass has received significant acclaim for their pivotal role on a new residential project, with South Australian luxury home builder and designer Beechwood Homes. With a rich, sophisticated finish, it takes the contemporary display home concept in compelling directions.

Top-end glazing systems were specified throughout this HIA award-winning Beechwood Display Home. The project was the 2017 HIA winner for the Best Bathroom & Best Kitchen in a Display Home and Best Display Home categories. Noteworthy features undertaken by the Federation Glass group include the glazed external mitred corners, pool fencing, oversized sliding doors, decorative glass splashbacks, internal custom-made handrail, external glass balustrades and sliding soft-close shower screens.

Shane Sweet, CEO of Federation Glass, explains what makes the components of Beechwood Homes work so beautifully in concert. 'We worked very closely with one of Beechwood Home's owners, Nathan Bennett, throughout the job, which made it a dream project, especially being given plenty of input and time for adjustments.'

How much time, exactly? 'From design to construction, the entire process took 18 months.

This was a lengthy time for a display home build – but it certainly paid off, giving us the chance to take the project that little bit further by seamlessly incorporating a range of exciting new products coming onto the market.'

In Shane's view, the windows represent a focal point. 'The constructed butt joint corner windows were used throughout the display home. 'One particularly interesting feature is the large picture window looking onto the alfresco dining and pool areas, which we glazed in Viridian Low-E ComfortPlus™.'

Another engineering highlights of the Beechwood Display Home for Federation Glass was the innovative and visually arresting bathroom. 'We learned a lot from the experience of glazing the semi-frameless shower screen,' says Shane. 'For this, we used a black framed 6mm clear toughened glass, mitred to achieve the best result, coupled with a complex pivoting door which opened at a 45-degree angle.'

'For the shower glazing, we provided 12mm toughened glass with holes and polished edges, as well as concealing the mechanism in the ceiling for a seamless appearance. The ensuite and entry doors of the display home also contain large frameless panels. →



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(Beechwood Homes – continued)

The colour choices in the Beechwood display Home are complemented by bold textures. ‘The clients chose a new textured style of glass finish called “linen”, a style choice which worked perfectly in tandem with the matt porcelain sheet flowing from the benchtop to the back of the wall behind the cooktop and larder,’ Shane explains. ‘They were eager to try something new, and the dark, glistening splashbacks are a key element in creating the interior’s luxurious feel.’

This fine-grained attention to materials and texture extends to the pool fence. ‘We sat down with the designer when considering this aspect, and eventually went with frameless glazing fixed into the concrete and spigot,’ says Shane. ‘Custom panels were required to meet pool fencing safety requirements, which presented a challenge because each pane had to be a certain size and a precise distance away from the pool. To keep this feature in character with the rest of the house, we used the same black finish to achieve an elegant modern feel.’

The custom internal handrail is another praiseworthy innovation installed by

Federation Glass. ‘We were tasked with constructing a rail for the staircase, extending from the lower to the upper level,’ Shane says. ‘Providing an unobtrusive solution, we fabricated a black powder-coated slimline handrail of a very low profile, which we hadn’t tried before. The client loved the idea, and proceeded to use similar finishes throughout the residence.’

This minimalist handrail features prominently on the external balcony, leading off the second upper lounge room with spigots cemented into the ground. ‘We see the balcony as a central part of the visual effect of the Beechwood Display Home, because it frames the property’s beautiful view. In this sense, the balcony acts as a showcase for the overall glass package.’

The challenging site provided considerable difficulty when transporting the materials, increasing the time required to complete the project. ‘Getting all the glazing into the property and successfully installing it was quite challenging,’ Shane notes. ‘However, we pulled this off smoothly after extensive consultation with the builder.’

‘As the owner of Federation Glass, I maintained a solid rapport with the owners throughout,’ Shane continues. ‘Everyone involved worked well as a team to overcome the obstacles and achieve superb results. It’s very gratifying to be recognised for our work on this project, with an AGGA SA award and multiple HIA awards, and also working with the professional team at Beechwood Homes – it was a real pleasure.’

The quality materials used throughout the Beechwood Display Home project provided the high standard that the various judging panels appreciated. ‘We used toughened Chevron Glass for the pool, Viridian Glass for the splashback, and Australian Independent Glass for the semi-frameless shower screens and frameless sliding doors. The materials are perfectly matched to each application. In our view, the interior and exterior design has been justly celebrated.’

The luxurious and welcoming Beechwood Homes display project is a fitting testament to the expert touch of Federation Glass. **GA**