



Behind the scenes

Disguised by a modest front, this new house steps down the hill and opens up to an expansive outdoor entertaining area. The house was designed and built by Mardini Constructions – winner of the Master Builder of the Year Award

Above: The Earlwood house, designed and built by Mardini Constructions, epitomises the firm's attention to detail and high-quality craftsmanship. The company specialises in the design, construction and restoration of high-end homes, including heritage projects, in the Sydney area.

Right: As with all houses built by Mardini Constructions, the Earlwood home features the extensive use of natural materials.

Designing a home for a sloping site is always a challenge, especially when you want to ensure the house has an easy indoor-outdoor flow.

The solution for this house, designed and built by Mardini Constructions, was to step the design down the hill, so the house could open up to a picturesque landscaped outdoor living area and swimming pool.

Company director Elvis Mardini says the house was designed to create a feeling of expanding space as you progress from the front door, down through the house to the rear.

"The design also highlights the importance



we give to open-plan living," he says. "At 5m, the ceilings in the living, family and dining rooms are especially high. A wide passageway and glazing also work to draw the eye to the lush landscaping at the rear."

Mardini says he prefers to use natural materials wherever possible. This house incorporates reclaimed sandstone on the exterior, recycled jarrah timber beams, rafters and doors, cedar windows and external doors, limestone floors and marble benchtops and vanity tops.

"These materials impart visual warmth, even though the design is very modern, with

crisp shadowlines on walls, floors and ceilings."

Mardini says the house typifies his firm's passion for good design, precision craftsmanship and integrity – qualities recognised by the most recent Master Builder of the Year Award.

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Above left and above: The interior of the house features large-scale recycled jarrah beams and rafters. Full-height glazing at the rear of the house maximises the view and reinforces the close connection with the outdoors. A skylight also ensures there is plenty of natural light.

Top: Mardini Constructions designed a long passageway to draw the eye through the house to the expansive outdoor living area beyond.