



The two-storey town house is modern and compact.

# Public housing steps out of the box

## BETH MUHLING

These two-bedroom town houses in Victoria Park owned by the Department of Housing and Works are a bit different to Perth's traditional style of public housing.

They were designed by John Kannis and Associates and built by BGC Construction.

Mr Kannis said the homes were more like Victorian-era terraced housing. Similar homes could be seen in places like Lake Street in Perth.

"They're narrow and long with party walls," he said. "The facades share rendered walls varying in colours to create a degree of individuality for the residents. They're fairly colourful and compact.

"They are two-bedroom with an upstairs bathroom and a downstairs laundry plus a toilet for guests."

He said a tasteful blend of red brickwork, Zinalume roofing, downpipes and steel entry canopies complemented the surrounding heritage buildings like the old post office.

An unusual feature for public housing was the security parking which residents and visitors could access only through electronic gates. All the parking was at the back of the building and there was an intercom so residents could let visitors in.

When the town houses were designed, the local council had stipulated there must be no parking on the street. Not only that, there were to be no cars visible from the street. "It was difficult, but we managed it," Mr Kannis said.

He said homes of a similar style were starting to appear in the likes of Subi Centro.

They were unusual for this area, but he believed with housing density increasing and homes becoming more compact, this type of housing would become more popular.

This home was an entrant in the 2007 HIA-ANZ Perth Housing Awards.

