

HOME VIEW

Maureen Eppen

Making space

COMFORT and practicality are combined in a development of 10 two-bedroom and three-bedroom seniors' villas close to shopping, parks, recreation facilities and public transport in Port Kennedy.

The villas have been designed to give occupants a sense of privacy and individuality, coupled with the security and companionship associated with medium-density housing developments.

Each villa has a separate carport, private courtyards and neatly landscaped garden areas.

Rendered walls and painted fence pickets have been finished in a range of colours — including blues and greens that complement the cream brickwork and neutral metal roof — to give each unit an individual appearance while maintaining an overall impression of coherence.

Inside, the units are spacious and functional, with good-sized bedrooms, practical utility areas and streamlined fittings.

Roy and Elsie Bullock have a two-bedroom unit at the front of the complex, isolated slightly from their neighbours and with a private driveway to their garage.

The front door opens to a compact entry space and an open-plan living and dining area with plenty of space for the generous proportions of their furniture. Two narrow windows face the street and a glass sliding door at the back of the room leads to a private courtyard and patio.

The kitchen, at the heart of the villa, is stunning and includes ceiling-high built-in cabinets, ample bench space and a functional layout.

A capped wall screens the sink and work benches and the stainless-steel oven, hotplates and sliding range hood give the kitchen contemporary style.

The main suite is at the front and is brightened by two narrow windows facing the street, plus three fixed squares of obscure glass high in the wall above the bed. The bedroom has a wide built-in wardrobe with two mirrored sliding doors and is linked to the semi-ensuite bathroom, which has a big enclosed shower and a two-door vanity unit.

A second door in the bathroom opens to a hall near the back, which links to the laundry and back to the central kitchen. The compact laundry has a glass sliding door to a sheltered courtyard drying area.

The second bedroom is also at the back, overlooking the main courtyard and patio.

The villa also has a good-sized storage area or powered workshop at the back of the garage.

Roy said the villas had several features that made them ideal for older residents and the complex offered the right mix of privacy and communal areas for times when residents wanted company.

"We looked around for a long while after we decided we wanted to move into a unit," he said. "We didn't want to lower our standards just because we were looking for a smaller place to live and we knew straight away that this place gave us exactly what we wanted."

Elsie said the big bedrooms and spacious living areas were big drawcards — with the abundance of cupboard space in the kitchen.

"Some of the places we looked at were like matchboxes but these villas have plenty of space and they really are perfectly comfortable for us," she said.

The villas were an entrant in the 2003 HIA-ANZ Housing Awards, in the medium density, up to \$150,000 per dwelling, category. They were designed by John Kannis and built by BGC Construction, phone 9261 1700, and the Department of Housing and Works.



The open-plan area provides a bright living space.

HOME VIEW



Each unit has an individual look but forms part of a coherent whole.

The Port Kennedy villas are close to shops, parks, recreational facilities and public transport.

