

# Builder takes long odds

■ Angie Tomlinson

**T**hree previous owners of this unusual Hillarys block came and went before it was snapped up by builder Ryan Cole, who had the vision and skill to create his own suburban oasis.

With a narrow angular front that doglegged around to a long rectangle, the 676sqm site required a custom design to take advantage of a north-facing length.

Mr Cole, who recently changed his company name from Savvy Constructions to Ryan Cole, took the unusual approach of placing much of the home at the rear of the block and doing away with a traditional front door. Instead, the approach is made either side of the pool — through a secure side gate and under an arbour to a side entry for the builder's clients and staff, or through the garage and under a covered walkway for the family.

The outdoor area has been oriented north with the pool as a centrepiece, surrounded by low-maintenance Millboard decking and artificial turf. A covered alfresco area with every outdoor kitchen luxury included, an outlook to a blade water feature into the pool and etched artwork on the pool wall add to a resort feel.



“I wanted it to feel like a resort when you get home so that once you walk through that gate you don’t feel like you have to go back outside,” Mr Cole said.

“We didn’t go away this Christmas and just happily spent two weeks by the side of our own pool and that’s when I knew I’d hit the mark.”

The home comprises two sides with a secure sliding door dividing the two. One half is for Mr Cole’s business, with a downstairs study and an open-plan loft office for staff that can easily be converted in the future into a self-contained apartment.

The other side is for Mr Cole, his wife Melissa and their three young daughters.

The dining, kitchen and living area wrap around the main outdoor area and a children’s playroom is behind an oversized

glass-pivot door with access to a courtyard. All the north-facing walls have been constructed in 300mm rammed limestone and there are louvre windows throughout for maximum cross-ventilation.

Dashes of colour have been added with a customised red and orange splashback and in the powder room cabinetry, while every nook and cranny has been designed with clever storage.

The bedroom wings are at the rear of the home, with the three minor bedrooms and family bathroom separated by a cavity sliding door to the main suite.

The main suite looks out to a small courtyard on one side and the big ensuite on the other. Louvres slide back between the bedroom and ensuite to reveal a freestanding bath and feature wave tile.