



New era for inner-city design

The Cabbage Patch Kid design by Residential Attitudes.

RHYS PRKA

With plenty of discussion around the 'death' of Perth's sprawl and renewed calls for urban infill development, you may be considering a move closer to the city.

One common hesitation which arises when discussing inner or near-city living is that of a perceived lack of space and housing options.

However, Residential Attitudes Principal Designer Brook Leber said the equation had changed for those building closer to the city in recent years, with demand driving a range of infill housing options.

"The 'missing middle' has been a hot topic for several years now – people don't want your standard cookie cutter, narrow-lot townhouse," he said.

"They want alternative housing options where a focus is put on substance over size. They also want an alternative to apartment living."

Mr Leber said the demand for alternate inner-city options was driven by zoning changes around Perth.

"Inner-city lots come in all shapes and sizes, and have resulted

from the subdivision of existing properties which have been rezoned," he said.

"Micro lots are becoming more popular. For the past 10-15 years people have been subdividing and creating 'narrow' lots and before that it was battle axe properties.

"The combination of smaller lots and an innovative approach is resulting in more dynamic housing options."

Mr Leber said housing trends in other cities were also inspiring new options in Perth.

"Doing away with wasted spaces and focusing on what we need and doing it well is changing the way we look at housing," he said.

"Just making better use of the spaces we have to work with and as the saying goes: 'necessity is the mother of invention'."

Mr Leber pointed to Residential Attitudes' Cabbage Patch Kid design, which was created for 15m-wide lots and is among a range offered by the builder to suit an inner-city lot, as an example of innovation in the space.

"There are two garden voids which allow vegetation to grow up from the ground floor, through the

building and all the way to the rooftop terrace," Mr Leber said.

"Hidden within the home is the central stairwell which leads you up to your own rooftop garden with city views."

Community also factors in.

"Entering straight into the free-form living area and kitchen, the home opens onto the back and front yard, encouraging interaction with the

neighbours and street beyond," Mr Leber said.

With zones changing and interest growing, the Perth inner-city design space is an area to watch.

CONTACT

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The Swiss Miss by Residential Attitudes.

People don't want your standard cookie cutter, narrow-lot townhouse.



The Langhus design.



Residential Attitudes' Lugano design.