THE SAVILLE \ BALWYN NORTH

American architect Frank Lloyd Wright has profoundly influenced contemporary Australian design because his innovations are ideal for our conditions, says Ron Englehart, the managing director of award-winning luxury builder Englehart Homes.

"Wright’s wide, sheltering eaves, recessed entries and integration of indoor and outdoor living are ideal for our conditions and how we live," he says.

"We created the Saville specifically with the Australian climate, lifestyle and landscape in mind by balancing the Wright tradition with contemporary living and technology."

Signature Wright innovations used in the Saville display home at 25 Belmore Road, Balwyn North, include the deep eaves and recessed front entry and also a mix of natural materials in Daniel Robertson bricks, render and timber, an apparently floating roof elevation, substantial blade walls, stretches of horizontal timber windows, strong geometrical shapes, a seamless flow between rooms and an expansive entertainment loggia.

The Saville also highlights the Japanese influence on Wright’s work with Japanese landscaping using natural rocks, sculpture and sculptural plantings around the home. Looking out, windows and doorways are used to frame the landscape and make it part of interiors. A vibrant Japanese shade of red is used as an accent against a monochromatic palette throughout the home.

Zoned into formal and casual areas, the house features lofty three-metre ceilings and full-length windows. The front hall includes an impressive entrance lobby, principal bedroom suite, study, formal living area and powder room. Raised ceilings, projected walls and square pillars define and highlight areas. A projected wall is an artful backdrop for the main bedroom, with recessed ceiling above. Square, engaged pillars announce the study and a recessed wall can house a screen or art in the formal living. Luxurious matt-charcoal stone-look porcelain tiles run from the entrance lobby to the rear family zone, and through bathrooms and laundry.

The main bedroom retreat includes dual walk-in wardrobes and an en suite bathroom, featuring a generous shower with frameless glass screen, and a freestanding bath. Twin basins are set into a stone benchtop with matched mirrors above. Plantation shutters are used in bathrooms, the formal living room and study.

A concealed sliding door can convert a formal living area to a media room in a canny idea for a space less frequently used. Pushed back, it reveals the rear half of the house with an expansive kitchen, dining and living area. This living space is effectively doubled in area by the adjoining external entertainment loggia, created through a continuation of the low-pitched, tiled roof and dramatic overhanging eaves.

Entered via bifold doors across the width of the dining area, the loggia is also serviced by an extended kitchen servery with high bifold cedar windows opening above the benchtop. Ideal for eating, socialising and relaxing outdoors, there’s ample room for a dining setting and a high teppanyaki-style granite counter incorporating grill and barbecue.

White solid-surface acrylic polymer flows over kitchen benchtops, servery and the massive island bench with waterfall sides. Stainless-steel kitchen appliances are by Miele and abundant cupboards and preparation areas include a large pantry with concealed appliance bench.

In the living area, Englehart’s trademark wall projections define positioning for a television screen and create a frame for hanging art between entrances to the family wing, which includes bathroom and laundry between two bedrooms. This divider also cleverly conceals a wall of cupboards to service the family zone. The family bathroom features a run of Japanese-red solid surface across a wall-length vanity, crisp against white 2pac joinery and the charcoal porcelain tile, which runs from the floor along the side and top of the bath hob, with ample sitting width beside the bath.

All Englehart designs are custom built and clients have flexibility with layout, design and features to suit their needs and budget. As displayed, The Saville is 38 squares with a contemporary façade but clients can opt for French provincial or neoclassical façades. Englehart’s French provincial flagship, La Provence, can be visited at 289 Belmore Road, Balwyn North.

Since it was founded in 1980 by Ron Englehart, Englehart Homes, has won more than 100 state and national awards, including HIA professional builder of the year, master builder of the year and awards for energy efficiency. The Englehart Group is a member of the Housing Industry Association and the Master Builders’ Association and Ron Englehart was the inaugural chair of the HIA Planning, Environment and Development Committee and its first national Greensmart leader.

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