

Brook Leber: Design in balance

Many hours spent on building sites during the early years of his career gave Brook Leber a unique insight into what he calls the “balance of creativity and build-ability”.

“Anybody can draw something. The whole idea of design is to build what you’ve designed so that it can be lived in,” says Brook, now Principal Designer at luxury Perth homebuilder Oswald Homes.

Back in the day, like many kids growing up in country Western Australia, Brook loved building cubby houses and being out in the bush. Today, the only cubby houses he builds are for his two young daughters, but his love of the great outdoors has stayed and it influences his perspective on space and the surrounding environment.

“Not only should there be a balance of form and function in a design, but also a home must always take into account the environment it sits in,” Brook says.

“Light, volume, functionality and a common sense approach are the fundamental principles I apply to all my designs.”

Brook, who loved to draw and make models as a youngster, went on to study architectural drafting, and soon developed a keen interest in building design.



“I was amazed by the artistry, engineering and craftsmanship of iconic buildings around the world,” he says.

“I was also lucky enough to be mentored through several design and architectural companies. In my first job, I spent a lot of time on site learning from everyone from the concrete layers to the cabinetmakers. You soon learn that there needs to be a practical approach, balancing creativity and build-ability.

“Designers need to be accountable, and they also need to respect the client’s budget.”

Brook, who lists travel, mountain biking and cooking among his interests, draws design inspiration from around the world and enjoys the wealth of styles his clients ask him to work with at Oswald Homes.

“By not being pigeonholed into one particular ‘look’, you get to work across all tastes and styles, from ultra-modern to traditional, and all styles in between,” he says.