

Turning stone into a thing of beauty

This family, starting with a grandfather, have become rock legends, writes KEREN BELLOS

JIM Flanders is renowned for his chiselled good looks.

From fireplaces to interior and exterior walls, his stonemasonry is as original as it is beautiful and consistently exceeds customer expectations.

His stunning works of architectural art are highly sought after by Perth builders, architects and home owners who require the highest standard of workmanship for new houses, churches and businesses.

Chisel in hand, Jim has 35 years of experience working with stone after following in the footsteps of his grandfather.

His son Daniel, who is in the second year of his apprenticeship, is also set to become a rock legend.

Employing time-proven stonemasonry techniques that have been handed down through the genera-

tions, they design, build and restore projects of all styles.

"Ninety-five per cent of our work is done by hand and we use all the traditional methods – chiselling, trimming, dressing and quoining (cornering),"

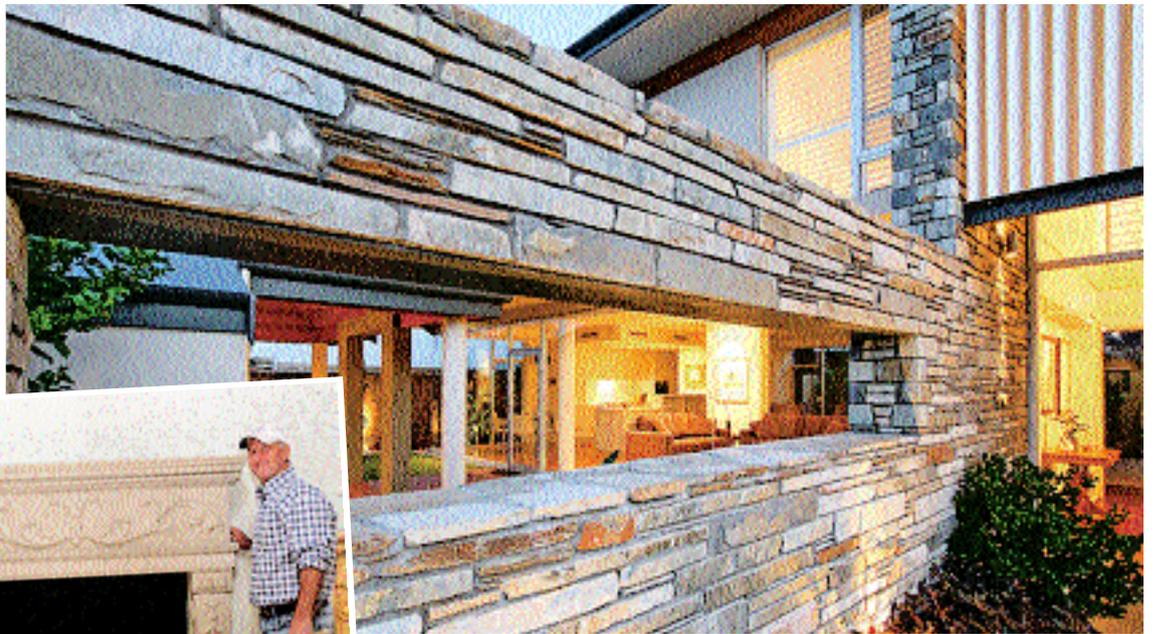
said Jim, who has won Master Builders awards for excellence.

"Lots of things have been handed down to me and I'm now doing the same with Daniel.

"You don't realise how much you really know until you start to teach someone," he added modestly.

According to Jim, a talented stone mason possesses an artist's eye for the stones, sizes and colours, as well

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Stonemasons Daniel and Jim Flanders... proud of every project.

as an attention to detail. "This only comes about through training as a youngster and years of experience," he explained.

"My trade has taken me all over the world and I've worked with different stone masons, styles, stones and methods.

"You would know if a stone mason did your project, as opposed to a rock worker or brick layer."

Jim and his craftsmen work with FlandersStone stone and granite, as well as stone from the UK, China and India.

With stone's rise in popularity

over the past few years, their skills are in high demand.

Before proceeding with a building project or feature fireplace surround, Jim builds clients a "show panel" for their approval.

He speaks passionately about all of FlandersStone's projects, taking great pride in his work.

"I'm very proud of clothing magnate Tony Barlow's sandstone house in Applecross, which I was involved in for 18 months," he said.

"It was copied from the Monte Carlo casino and built in local Donnybrook sandstone, and although it has aged and mellowed over the

years, it still looks incredible.

"I am proud of all my projects, though, because every one is unique."

With Jim at the helm and Daniel developing his talent, FlandersStone is sure to rock on for many years to come.

For more information, visit the website at www.flandersstone.com.au ■



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CONTACTS

Group Real Estate Editor:

Rick Lee (08) 9234 5033
Rick.Lee@communitynews.com.au

Account Manager:

Jenni Hunter (08) 9231 5249
Jenni.Hunter@communitynews.com.au

Writers:

Courtney Notte (08) 9233 3046
Courtney.Notte@communitynews.com.au

Keren Bellos (08) 9234 5033
Keren.Bellos@communitynews.com.au

Samantha Jones (08) 9234 5039
Samantha.Jones@communitynews.com.au

Editorial Designers: Jody Castrianni
Denita Curtis

For requests for property reviews, please e-mail:
Carmelle.Wilkinson@communitynews.com.au

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Osborne Park, WA 6017

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