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Louisa Rose has broken the glass ceiling for women winemakers

Photo: Ray Sambrook

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Busy mother-of-two, Karen Nelson-Field is a no frills kind of woman and nowhere is her fuss-free taste more evident than in her recently renovated home in Unley.

Karen engaged award-winning designer Sonja Hosking, of Hosking Interior Design, to work with her on the design and layout of rooms in the villa she shares with young sons Connor and Alec.

"The house was pretty much gutted and so we started from scratch," says Karen, a lecturer in marketing and communications at the University of SA.

"I like things to be linear and minimal. Clean lines, but funky and it had to be family friendly."

Sonja wanted to start with a "blank canvas" to which Karen could add layers and detail.

The family room, Karen's favourite room in the house, is a case in point and a study in warm earthy tones, latte-coloured floor tiles are partly covered with a coffee rag rug and the leather sofas are a complementary camel shade.

Karen will judiciously add artworks to the off-white walls.

The room's major feature is an eco-smart fireplace with floor-to-ceiling textured stone surround.

In keeping with the clutter-free approach, the spacious kitchen with white

Crisp white contrasts with earthy tones in the bathroom and kitchen.

in residence

Cesar Stone benchtops, features plenty of storage space.

Sonja is partial to the formal dining and living area and its palette of red, black, chocolate and grey. The two striking pendant lights - made of spun wire - were sourced through Paradigm, at Kent Town.

The home's bathrooms are luxurious, probably not surprising given Sonja's 2006 Design A Room gold award for a bathroom at the Home Show (she shared the award with bathroom company Ecola).

The large main bathroom has a freestanding tub with floor-mounted mixer tap, a large shower and floor-to-ceiling window. Even Karen's compact "secret" ensuite manages to exhibit style in its confined space concealed behind a wall of cupboards.

The boys, aged four and three, share a large bedroom which has been decorated in lively blue and green and decked out in durable IKEA furniture.

Karen is delighted with the end result.

"Everything's been stripped right back - I even changed the door handles and replaced the fussy old ones with these funky pieces I found on e-Bay," she says.

"The house was really dark and now it's light and bright and airy and works really well."

The children's bedroom has a fun blue and green colour scheme.

Karen Nelson-Field, with her son Alec, in the family room - her favourite part of the house.