Pipe dreams are normally regarded as fantastic plans that are almost impossible to realise, but thanks to the work of Perth niche renovation specialist NuSpace Developments, one couple’s pipe dream has literally come true.

Their 60-year-old Federation-style Nedlands property has morphed into a modern dream home – complete with an unusual underground wine cellar constructed from a seven-tonne concrete pipe – following a 15-month, $650,000 renovation by Gwelup-based builder NuSpace, working closely with designer Odette Smith.

NuSpace, established by Rob Markey and Les Halbert in 2003, took up the renovation challenge where other builders would not. “We tend to pick up ‘difficult’ renovations that other builders seem to shy away from because they require a lot more hands-on work than other builders seem to want to put in,” said NuSpace co-director Mr Halbert.

“People we are building for are in their late 50s, early 60s, and this is going to be their dream home.”

In this case, the clients, a retired couple, wanted to install an underground wine cellar in their boundary-to-boundary backyard shed.

A word of mouth recommendation from a previous client led the Nedland’s couple, who had already commissioned Odette Smith for the renovation design, to NuSpace. “We removed the existing kitchen, bathroom, laundry and back patio, and the clients wanted a large well-liner (2400 x 2400 concrete pipe) sunk in the ground for the cellar,” said Mr Halbert.

The natural cooling properties of the pipe meant the clients wouldn’t have to install expensive temperature controls for their collection of several hundred bottles. This is where NuSpace went ‘the extra mile’, sorting through the red-tape to bring in a 32-tonne excavator through the streets to lift the seven-tonne pipe into position.

“It was the most cost-effective solution. Otherwise, because sand falls away at a 45 degree angle, you would have had to dig out a much bigger area and put down a concrete pad,” said Mr Markey.

Mr Halbert said that because of the proximity to a nearby laneway, it would have cost around $20,000 for piling to put in a ‘normal’ cellar.

“Designer Odette Smith came up with the idea (for the pipe) but left it up to us how we were going to get it there.”

Mr Halbert said the Federation-style home’s...