



The spacious deck affords perfect solar orientation, making it a wonderful place for quiet solitude or entertaining.

SHAPING UP

A tired, old Sydney beach cottage gets a new lease on life

WORDS James Cleland PHOTOGRAPHY Michael Ford

Ageing is a natural process. As we age we grow a little wiser and more comfortable with ourselves and more appreciative of what we have. The foundations of who we are and what we want are set and we can move on to enjoying the ripened fruits of the life we have been given.

The same cannot always be said about our homes. They, of course, age and change and

for many owners they remain a constant and a personal and private space, reflecting their lifestyles and the choices they've made. However, this is not necessarily a constant that provides the same comforts it once did or caters to the present lifestyle needs of those who dwell within.

This is where Brian and Elaine, owners of this property, located on Sydney's northern beaches, found themselves: looking forward to retirement and stuck with a home that had definitely seen better days. Nestled within



Above
Exterior work included new windows, doors, cladding, roofing and an updated colour scheme.

the depths of an overgrown and untamed garden was an aged and weathered brick-and-weatherboard cottage with a colour scheme that had been out of date for several decades. Brian and Elaine desired a home that reflected their current lifestyle, requiring a laidback, refined sophistication yet also containing all the expected comforts of a modern home.

To help bring their home into shape and fit it into the new period of their lives, Brian and Elaine sought the help of Liquid Architecture. The brief was to create a residence of "solitude and retreat" while also serving as a social and entertainment hub. Liquid Architecture set about creating a residence that both serves the needs for privacy and seclusion and provides an open, inviting and lively entertaining and living area, which merges indoor and outdoor spaces that take advantage of the north-facing rear aspect of the house. Integration of sustainable design and smart storage throughout the house was also a prominent request.

The architect's prime inspirational drive for this renovation was "the laidback lifestyle of the northern peninsula, perfect solar orientation and an opportunity to create a flexible space that flows between indoor and outdoor living areas". Key considerations were given to both social and environmental sustainability, such as the potential for natural lighting and ventilation, use of the sun's thermal energy and integration with the expansive rear garden to create a comfortable outdoor area. Natural flow and extension of space and social interactivity between rooms were also taken into account, ensuring direct

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before

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Highlight louvre windows provide light and increased higher-level airflow.

access to the living and entertainment areas via the main entrance, as well as giving thought to the private spaces by keeping them secluded from the main communal area.

The changes that were necessary to bring this about were extensive while also battling with termites, leaks, poor construction of previous renovations and unexpected relics of the past found during excavation. A complete exterior and interior refurbishment was required, including replacing all the windows and doors, cladding, roofing, masonry and flooring.

Internally, the living area was extended to the rear and flows onto an outdoor, open-air deck that transitions the internal main living area effortlessly into the extensively landscaped garden featuring extensive replanting, sandstone rewalling, a Balinese cabana and fishpond water feature. A large, high-end kitchen incorporates a bar, laundry and dining area well suited to entertaining large groups. An extensive upgrade of the main bedroom retreat includes a walk-in wardrobe and new spacious ensuite as well as a re-evaluation of internal proportions to improve circulation and flow.

The architect's favourite part of the renovation is the lounge room. "As the connective hub of the public spaces within the residence, it contains views of the outdoor spaces, the pendants hanging in the dining room as well as the dynamic ceiling surrounding the stairs," said Melonie Bayl-Smith. "The lounge room also pays tribute to the connection of the old and new as the original raked ceiling of the house is kept and reflected towards the north to bring natural light and air into the space. We also really love the stone walls around the tree, which has made the tree the heart of the rear garden."

In accordance with the sustainable design decisions required within the renovation, it was essential to create spaces that take advantage of natural ventilation and lighting. This adds to the ambience of the home and is assisted via the installation of louvres, bi-folding doors and windows. The addition of a butterfly roof to the north emphasises the design consideration of taking full advantage of the natural light generously provided via the perfectly oriented rear section of the residence. Heating and cooling are balanced through insulation of all walls and the introduction of a timber pergola, while slatted screens to the north façade control airflow. Solar panels and a recycled water system were part of the renovation with the solar panning producing enough energy to give back to the grid.

"Overall, what makes this renovation special is the potential that the original house offered in terms of space, light and greenery," says Melonie. "This project also differs from many other renovation projects in that, rather than seeking



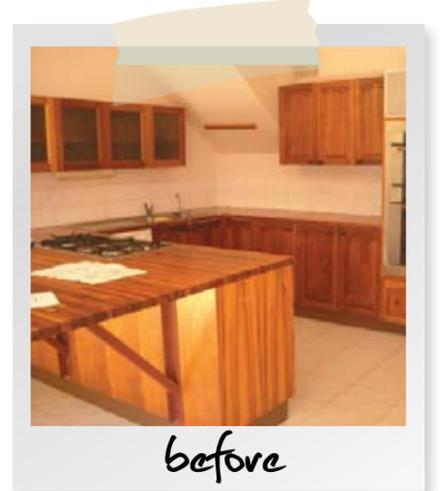
This Page
 Stained American oak features on the stairs and floors, combining with Bottocino marble tiles to create a warm, earthy colour palette underfoot.

Opp Page Top
 Kitchen, lounge and dining rooms flow seamlessly to the outside entertaining spaces and lush garden.

Opp Page Bottom
 A study is located just inside the front entry, separated from the main living quarters.

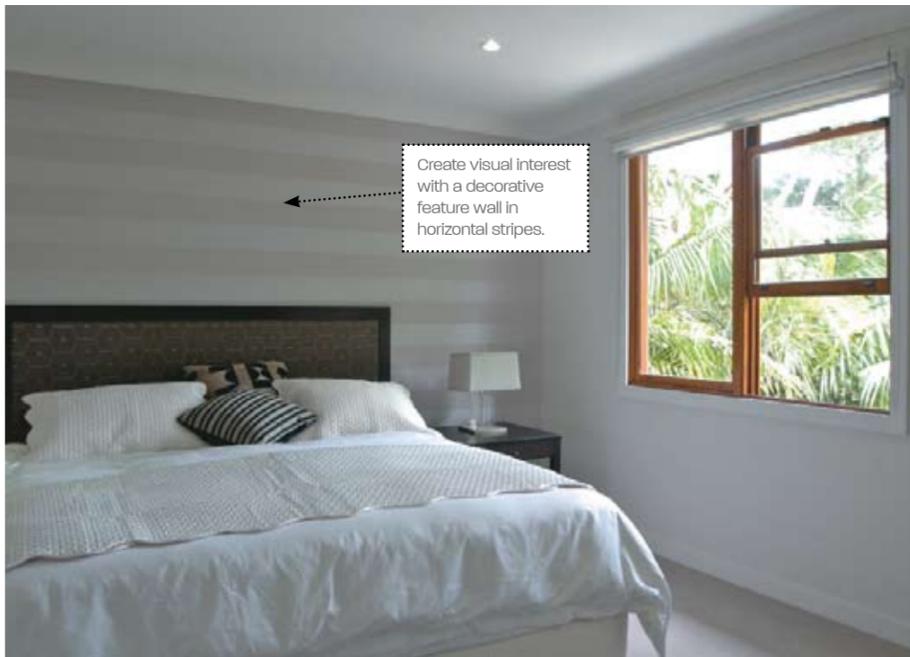


to increase accommodation, its focus was to make much better use of the available space in the dwelling with discerning structural changes and a modest extension to the footprint.” 





The spacious master bedroom retreat features a modern marble-tiled dual-use bathroom, walk-in wardrobe, luxurious furnishings and decorative feature wall in Porters Wide Stripes.



Create visual interest with a decorative feature wall in horizontal stripes.



project particulars

This project was designed by
LIQUID ARCHITECTURE PTY LTD
 7/100 Penshurst Street,
 Willoughby NSW 2068
 Tel 02 9958 7950
 Web www.liquidarchitecture.com.au

This project was built by
Stuart Wilson Constructions
 Licence no. 186055c
 Tel 0412 559 777

FLOORING

Kitchen/dining/living: Botticino marble from Tile Solutions
Bedroom: Celine Feltex carpet
Stair: Stained American oak
Outdoor: Spotted gum decking

WALLS

Kitchen: Dulux Ghosting half-strength
Dining: Dulux Ghosting half-strength

Living: Dulux Ghosting half-strength
Bedroom: Feature — Porter's Wide Stripes and Porter's Classic Pearl
Stair: Feature — Dulux Harts Grey
Outdoor: Dulux Brume Quarter

KITCHEN

Benchtop: CaesarStone Walnut
Splashback: DecoGlaze® Champagne
Cabinetry: Evener Eco Argento
Appliances: Leibherr fridge; AEG cooktop, oven, microwave and dishwasher; Bosch plate-warming drawer; Ilve rangehood; Miele coffee machine

BATHROOM FITTINGS

Cabinetry: SNB Indian Jet Black benchtop; polyurethane in Dulux Ghosting half strength
Basin: Ideal Standard Tonic vessel
Tiles/walls and floor: Botticino marble, Everstone Durastone Charcoal
Sanitary fixtures: Seido Icon Series II wall-faced suite

Taps: Sussex Pol wall outlet
Shower/bath: Kaldewei Vaio Duo bath; Nikles Techno Twin showerhead

LIGHTING

Brightgreen Curve downlights; Slamp Goccia pendant; Rio Track-heads

WINDOWS + EXTERNAL DOORS

Glass: Airlite
Frames: Western red cedar

OUTDOORS

Roof: Colorbond Windspray
Paving: Eco Concepts Concrete Pavers in Arc Rock
Decking: Spotted gum
Landscaping: Melissa Wilson Landscape Architects and Rowlands Landscapes Pty Ltd
Screening: Feature screen of spotted gum blades