



WINNER: AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECT BATH SUITE
Bijl Architecture, Sydney



Outside the square

This thoughtful reinvention of a master suite includes the bold move of adding a balcony and ensuite on to the end of the home

Where do you turn as a renovating architect when the existing master suite doesn't quite meet spacial needs and the existing services are hard to reroute? Well one savvy design response is to build a pop-out on the side of the building.

This comprehensive master suite makeover – part of a whole-house renovation by architect Melonie Bayl-Smith – took just such a route.

“The reworked master bedroom has stayed loosely in the form it was before. However, we added a wall at one end of the space to create a spacious walk-in wardrobe,” says Bayl-Smith. “There had previously been no ensuite and the



Previous pages: Large windows and doors frame an immersive bush setting in this master bedroom makeover – part of a whole house rethink by Bijl Architecture. The private master ensuite addition is accessed only from the bedroom.

Above left and above: A black vanity and black accessories avoid the ensuite overpowering the bedroom.

Legend: 1 master bedroom, 2 walk-in wardrobe, 3 ensuite, 4 deck, 5 hall



Architect: Melonie Bayl-Smith and Vanessa Tang-Lee, Bijl Architecture
Vanity: Falper Via Veneto from Rogerseller
Basin: Mare from Rogerseller
Taps: Fantini Mare from Rogerseller
Shower fittings: Fantini Mare Shove Minor
Toilet: Paco Jaanson from ACS Designer Bathrooms
Wallcoverings: Porcelain tiles from Academy Tiles
Lighting: LED downlights and vanity light
Underfloor heating: Warm Floors
Hot water systems: Rinnai from Reece

Awards: Trends International Design Awards (TIDA) Bathrooms – Winner

Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by Katherine Lu

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Above: Step right up – a chunky seat set back in the shower stall provides a mini retreat for the owners. With the ensuite being high up on the side of the home, privacy wasn't an issue so glass walls and windows flood light into the modest space. The architect combined tile styles in the shower area and oriented the long charcoal tiles in such a way as to create the illusion of greater space.

owners wanted one with a discrete entrance – plus the existing plumbing was restrictive.”

An old balcony on this corner of the home had been non-compliant so the architect elected to replace this with a pop-out comprising the new ensuite and a small balcony. A new pool had also been introduced below – adding to the ambience for the small private balcony.

“The addition is clad in Terracade, a fire-resistant, easy-maintenance surface in earthy tones. Low upkeep was a must as the exterior of the extension is hard to reach.”

Being up high meant privacy wasn't an

issue, so the ensuite has glass at both ends. And by locating it at the outer end of the bedroom, the discrete link required between the master bathroom and master bedroom was assured.

“The owners wanted the ensuite to recede rather than draw the eye, so we went for subdued tones, right down to the choice of black accessories and even a black toilet. And of course the black glass Falper vanity is the centrepiece.”

Moody charcoal floor tiles and grey wall tiles were chosen for the main space, while the shower stall comprises a play between the two tiles, adding to the sense of space.