

FACT FILE

THE BRIEF

Open up a non-descript double-brick cottage to maximise a tranquil aspect

THE ARCHITECT

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A Posts and screens add privacy to the veranda

B The original dwelling **C** Modern materials and design ideas have transformed this 1930s cottage



BEFORE



AFTER

Photos: John Fotiadis

Boosting space and the view

Using its original geometric shapes as a reference point, this cottage has been reinvented to take advantage of its bushland setting

What was the house like before?

The building was an inter-war double-brick cottage with a tired yellow and green colour scheme. The house had only undergone minor alterations previously, including an ugly garage in the front setback area. Although there was a large deck at the rear, there was limited living amenity due to the sequence of existing spaces and the lack of natural lighting afforded by the original dwelling.

What did the owners ask for?

The owners wanted to open up the house to the back garden, which was one of the major appeals of the property, bringing the bushland setting into the home.

They wanted to streamline and reconfigure the living spaces to make a more family friendly, open-plan space with a clear connection between outdoor and indoor spaces. The kitchen was an important feature, as the owners wanted a high-end kitchen within easy access of the deck, to enable the host to cook and interact with guests or family in both the indoor and outdoor living areas. As well as this, the owners wanted a new lower level with a separate guest bedroom and bathroom, internal laundry, storeroom and home entertainment/recreation room. The owners wanted the rear to be contemporary and functional.

Describe the look of the back of the house.

Our approach was to create a framed space that is intimated by the design of the parapet roof over the deck, the grid of the Matrix cladding, the privacy screens and the placement of posts. The design focuses on providing two outdoor rooms – the deck level and the covered patio area beneath.

What materials were used?

Materials are Scyon Matrix board cladding painted in Dulux Reed Bed, spotted gum timber decking, blackbutt posts, handrail and slatted screens, stainless-steel cabling to the balustrade, Eco Outdoor pavers to the covered patio area, and Colorbond Custom Orb roof sheeting.

How would you make a contemporary renovation suit an older-style house?

In achieving a contemporary addition to an older-style house, consideration of the scale, colour and materials of the existing dwelling will provide a solid reference point for a design. It is worth considering demolition materials. Painted bricks and recycled bricks can add an interesting patina.

Jenny Ringland

MORE INFORMATION

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