

PLUS

Why we're all talking about indigenous design



It's double the fun with Metricon's Tremain 27 duplex



How a busy family made sense of a tricky heritage site



THE PROJECT

Owners

A couple with three active boys Architect

James McNally, McNally Architects mcnallyarchitects.com.au

The brief

To create a family home with room for everyone and connection to the garden without losing the original Federation home

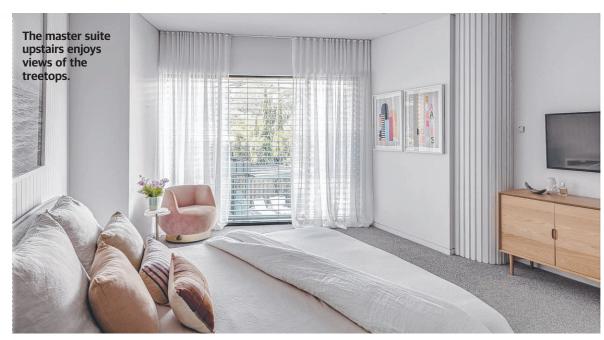
The site

A corner block with two frontages that drops away from the street **Design solution**

Remove the old renovations and create new living and sleeping spaces with a two-storey addition

How long did it take

12 months



An unorthodox design puts a new spin on capturing the view, writes Robyn Willis

ometimes the design solution for a site is obvious. Other times, not so much. For this block, there were so many constraints to consider, bringing it together took careful thought by architect James McNally

The original Federation house occupied a corner block in Mosman, so there were two street frontages to address. The site also sloped away from the street.

The house had also been added onto three times in a 50-year period, not always successfully.

The owners of the house and their three growing boys were after a connection to the garden which the lean-to did not offer.

"It had a two-storey, rickety old fibro lean-to that had been converted into a living room that sweltered in summer and froze in

winter," says James. Once the additions were demolished, James reconfigured the site, making the lower level the new open-plan kitchen, living and dining area, with four bedrooms above.

Views are always a priority in Mosman so James came up with an unorthodox solution that worked, not just for the owners, but their neighbours as well.

Rather than adding a standard



two-storey box at the back, he partially cleaved the space in the middle, effectively pointing each room in a different direction.

This not only offered a better view of the local environment, it redirected the line of sight away from the neighbours.

TWO-STOREY, RICKETY

"We kicked the new space off its axis by 20 degrees and it gave the room views of the valley and down to the harbour, so we looked past the neighbours and then captured this distant view at the

upper level," James says. "Just 20 degrees to the right gives you a whole new perspective.

"It helped the neighbours to the left to clear their vista too."

The garden has also been gently divided, with the pool to one side and lawn to the other.

An open stairwell with stringlike balustrades was placed on the southern side of the new addition to draw in light.

"The lower level could be classified as basement so we looked at how to draw light in," James says. "It's a south-facing stair but it draws a lot of southern light into that dark corner."

Given the back of the garden looks on to the neighbour's yard, James says a self-contained cabana was an easy choice.

'It helps to tie the site together and it's great for visiting grandparents," he says.

Council was also appreciative of the design solutions, with the house picking up the best Alterations & Additions and the People's Choice Awards at the 2019 Mosman Design Awards. **Pictures: Murray Fredericks**

THE SOURCE

Kitchen barstools Sketch Tami barstools from Globewest, globewest.com.au **Benchtop** Super white granite from WDK Stone, rgm.sydney/ wdk-natural **Living room floor** Oak crystal herringbone engineered timber from Havwoods, havwoods.com.au **Bathroom basins** Coloured concrete round basin, Just in Place, justinplace.com.au **Exterior cladding** Colorbond, colorbond.com

