

HOME

The Daily Telegraph ^{SATURDAY} | SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

build ✓
design ✓
living ✓

PLUS

Why we're all talking about indigenous design



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



SASHA ALAGICH

Riding the waves of a surfer's life

Starting over

How a busy family made sense of a tricky heritage site



RENOVATE



Degrees of separation

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

Sometimes 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

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

The master suite upstairs enjoys views of the treetops.



Sandstone links the new living area with the original house while an open staircase with string-like balustrades adds a sculptural element.

STYLE

HOME TOP TIP

Create zones within open-plan spaces with rugs and pendant lights



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.

“IT HAD A TWO-STOREY, RICKETY OLD FIBRO LEAN-TO THAT SWELTERED IN SUMMER AND FROZE IN WINTER

“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 string-like 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

Benchmark 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

MODERN classic

