

DREAM IT. DESIGN IT. DO IT.

green day.

While the owners dug in at the back, a white-tile ban prompted a green response from the design team of this Melbourne home

kitchen

Excavating the back of the house lowered the floor and extended the wall height to an impressive 3.6m. The tiles on the super-sized splashback are Murano Olive in Navy Gloss from KWD & Co. Benchtop, Elba marble. Cabinetry, Polytec Maison Oak laminate.



cheat sheet

Who lives here Troy and Maria McGlone, owners of landscape design company Zenith Concepts, and their three children: Will, 13; Max, 10; and eight-year-old Lucy.

Style of home A 100-year-old California bungalow in the Melbourne suburb of Sandringham, recently renovated to become a spacious and family-friendly four-bedroom abode.

🕒 Troy and Maria first met with their architect in 2016 — 10 years after they purchased the home. Renovation works commenced in September 2018 and took a further 10 months to complete.

💰 The cost of the renovation was roughly \$850,000, including furniture.

stairs/study nook

A last-minute design change meant that the planned concrete bench under the stairs became a custom ledge with joinery. For continuity, the same timber was used for the floor and ceiling: engineered European oak in Classic Bridgeport, through KWD & Co. The lower level is concrete. Throw: Cultiver.

Maria and Troy McGlone fell in love with the period charm of their 100-year-old California bungalow as soon as they stepped through the character-filled front door. The rooms might have been small and poky and the single-storey floor plan limited, but the feature details were enough for the couple to sign up for the home in the Melbourne seaside suburb of Sandringham.

Maria and Troy, who own landscape design company Zenith Concepts, purchased the property with intentions to renovate and open up the living zones while still being sympathetic to the home's era. "The plan was to renovate about five years after we purchased, but lack of time and money meant we never got around to it," says Maria. It wasn't until 10 years later, when their family had grown to include three children, that the couple decided to take the plunge.

Needing more space at that point, they worked with architect Lyndal Williams from My Architect and builder Steve Stroud from Apollo Homes to realise their long-held vision. Rooms were opened up and a second storey added, with the original features incorporated wherever possible. "We're actually glad we waited to renovate as this is different to what we would have done back then," says Maria. "It's much more suitable."

dream it

Creating a family-friendly home was the driving factor for the renovation. The new upper level was designed as a designated area for the three kids to enjoy, with a bedroom for each as well as a separate living/sleepover room to spend time in with friends.

The lower-level redesign was all about opening up the existing floor plan. As such, a large open-plan living, dining and kitchen space was planned as the focal point of the home. "We also run our business from the front of our house, so we wanted a large enough office to have client meetings and space for our work stations," says Maria.

"We retained the previous office – in what would have been the 'good room' in the old house – but accessed more space from one of the adjoining bedrooms so we were able to fit in a big meeting table as well."

Not surprisingly, given that the family runs a landscape design business, another carefully considered feature was the interaction between indoors and out. This was where Maria and Troy's professional experience came to the fore. Their design for the garden encompassed a deck and pergola leading off the living area, and verdant plantings that are clearly visible from every room in the house.

the moodboard



wishlist

- + **More space** "That was the main reason for the renovation," says Maria. "As charming as they are, old homes don't make the best use of space so it was about opening the home up."
- + **Better facilities** "With three active children, the house had to be really family-friendly. The pool and basketball court were features we factored in from the start and have been particularly well used."
- + **Beautiful garden** "This was a must-have. A great garden can add so much to the whole living experience and that's what we've created."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Woud 'Stone' pressed-metal pendant light in Black, \$309, Luumo Design. Malakh glazed porcelain tile in Green, \$107.80 per sq m, and Plastrella ceramic tile in Teal, \$106.15 per sq m, Academy Tiles. Black Forest panel, from \$101 for a 400 Modern Door. Kaboodle. Coco bar stool in Light Grey, \$399, Vossen. Redem terrazzo-look tile, \$49 per sq m, TileCloud. Bleached Elm laminate, \$86.57 per sq m, Laminex. Signature cast-iron pot, \$619, Le Creuset. A69-08 V8 Icon gooseneck chrome sink mixer, \$768, Astra Walker. Crafted sandstock Wiseman and Lawson-blend bricks, \$3 each, PGH Bricks & Pavers.

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



- 1 Entry
- 2 Office
- 3 Powder room
- 4 Bedroom
- 5 Walk-in robe
- 6 Ensuite
- 7 Kitchen
- 8 Dining area
- 9 Living
- 10 Laundry
- 11 Deck
- 12 Swimming pool
- 13 Bedroom
- 14 Second living
- 15 Bathroom
- 16 Bathroom
- 17 Bedroom
- 18 Bedroom



living

The new living area has a feature wall of red bricks sourced from the home's original driveway. Sofa, client's own. Cushions, Tigger Hall. Ceramics, Karen Morton. Framed photograph by Slim Aarons.



bedroom

KWD chose calming Dulux Grey Pall for the walls in this young boy's space. Bed linen, Cultiver. Carpet, Venice Tar Mist.

laundry

Plenty of space for storage and sorting washing was a priority. White laminate cabinetry and light grey matt subway tiles create a clean, neutral look. Benchtops, Caesarstone Snow. Floor tiles, Cera Rainstone from KWD & Co.



design it

While the extension took on more of a mid-century modern feel, courtesy of its more industrial elements, maintaining the traditional look and feel of the home's original structure was a key consideration. During the renovation, the facade and two front rooms were retained and other period features upcycled where possible, including the doors and leadlight windows.

"We wanted to reuse all our red bricks from the old driveway and backyard, so [architect] Lyndal created a 3.6m-high feature brick wall in the living area. It runs through the windows and along the boundary wall in the outdoor pergola area," says Maria. "I love that it's not only a stunning feature but a reminder of what was here previously."

Unfortunately, though, some elements, such as a few ceiling roses and cornices, couldn't be salvaged, but a concerted effort was made to ensure the replacements were as close to the originals as possible. It was also important to create a seamless connection between the old and new sections of the home so Maria and Troy entrusted Kate Walker and her KWD team with the interior fit-out. "Our first brief to Kate was that we wanted lots of green – our favourite colour," says Maria. "We also said no to white tiles anywhere!"

KWD loved the brief, and green accents were brilliantly incorporated into the plans for the kitchen and bathroom tiling. Subtle black highlights also make a statement in their design, tying in with the home's original double leadlight doors in the front and middle sections of the home.

do it

The 10-month construction process saw the property totally transformed. Now it's spacious, light-filled and ideally suited to the McGlone family's needs. It also hints at the old while incorporating the best of contemporary design.

However, the process wasn't without challenges. The biggest hurdle was when the cabinetry design business Maria and Troy had employed was dissolved – after they'd paid a \$17,000 deposit. "Luckily, we had our drawings so were able to go to our builder's cabinet maker instead," Maria explains. "He was excellent and had his team build all the cabinetry for us. It was about \$25,000 less than the first cabinetmaker had quoted, which was fantastic!"

That situation is similar to how things have played out overall, says Maria. "This isn't what we envisaged when we bought the house, but for how we live now it's actually better." 10

KWD: katewalkerdesign.com.au and kwdandco.com.au.

Zenith Concepts: zenithconcepts.com



the best bits

- + **Garden** "The outdoor space is our favourite," says Maria. "This was a big part of the design and I love that these areas can be enjoyed from inside the house as well."
- + **Living room** "The ground-floor living space has a very voluminous feel to it, thanks to the new higher ceiling. We were able to create this by dropping the back level of the house down while maintaining the old ceiling height."
- + **Main bedroom** "Our original bedroom at the front of the house was expanded to include a walk-in robe and 'green' bathroom. We planted a bamboo hedge outside the bathroom window so eventually the entire room will be encased in greenery."

lessons learnt

"Sometimes plan B is better"

MARIA McGLONE, HOMEOWNER

"The original renovation design included a formed concrete bench suspended from a wall under the stairs in the living area. However, just before Christmas that year our builder asked us where the engineering drawings for the bench were. We didn't know we needed them, and quickly decided it was the wrong time of year to start new drawings, so we canned that idea and spent the next few weeks working out what to do instead. The outcome was a custom ledge with built-in joinery in the same timber veneer used throughout the house. We are very happy with the result – it worked out well in the end."

bathroom

The green theme continues in the ground-floor ensuite with a South Hampton Olive tile on the wall and Terrazzo Erie on the floor, both through KWD & Co. Benchtop, Caesarstone Snow. Cabinetry, Polytec Maison Oak laminate.

RENOVATE

bliss bomb

The joy of turning old red bricks into a design feature

For those of us who fantasise about having a brick feature wall at home, this Melbourne family's story is a dream come true.

While planning a big renovation over a number of years, their patience was rewarded with an unexpected bonus: finding a great raw material on the premises.

A year later, the red bricks lining the driveway became a gorgeous feature wall running from inside to out, referencing the old in an entirely new way.

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