



Bold and the beautiful

A makeover celebrates two strikingly different Brisbane styles, and opens the way to park views and exciting spaces

Tonya Turner

When it comes to modern architectural extensions, it's more common to see them at the rear of a property with the original house at the front. But this pre-war cottage in Wilston is a side-by-side affair, and the results are striking.

Owners Angela and Andrew moved into the original home with its bad seventies and eighties extensions six weeks after their second daughter was born.

They planned to start renovating six months later, but time slipped away and it was another 10 years before they finally got started.

Architect Ian Wrightson of Wrightson Stewart was brought on board to transform the home into a

bright and open space that made the most of its previously ignored park-side location.

"We wanted something that was modern but respected the old house and had integrity," Andrew says.

The old extensions were removed and replaced by a bold new structure to the left of the original house. The old was painted white and the new painted black to further highlight the contrast between the two.

A wall of floor-to-ceiling glass louvres provides park views from the new lounge, dining room and kitchen at the back of the home. The lounge and dining areas are divided by an inbuilt cabinet that acts as a bookshelf and entertainment unit on one side and a bench seat on the other.

"We didn't want to have the

FAVOURITE NOOKS ... Lounging with books (above) and the kitchen bench seat (top).



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SENSE OF PLACE ... Brisbane's the new black and white; vistas include glimpses of neighbouring Queenslanders as well as the park.

traditional TV on the wall so everything would face the wall. We wanted everything looking out at the park," Andrew says.

As a practice, Ian says they often build furniture into spaces.

"We like to keep them contained because it creates more function to the space and makes it feel larger," he says.

One of the big challenges was creating enough storage for avid reader Angela's extensive book collection. Rather than creating lots of bookshelves, Ian incorporated storage at the base of the inbuilt lounge chairs.

"It's a real visual feature," he says. The new spaces connect to the

back deck, where a lower landing to the left allows the balustrade to sit lower and provide uninterrupted park views from the main entertaining level. There are plenty of nooks at which to sit and relax, either inside or out, but Angela's favourite is the window bench seat by the kitchen.

"It's just a nice space to sit and look out," she says.

In the original part of the house, they turned the old kitchen into an open study, the girls' old bedroom became their walk-in-wardrobe, and the small main bathroom was turned into the ensuite.

Daughters Rosie, 12, and Lottie, 11, enjoyed sharing a bedroom before the renovation, but as the teenage years



edge closer their excitement over now having their own rooms (exactly the same size) has grown.

Collectively, Ian, Angela and Andrew are proud of the home's distinctive Brisbane style.

"It's a very Brisbane project, it feels very Brisbane and that's what the goal was in designing this," Ian says.

"We've opened it up to all of the

elements so you see these beautiful vistas through every space and then captured details of the neighbouring Queenslanders with glimpses through windows and doorways. By opening everything up to the landscape it really regionalises the design.

"So often in Brisbane we try to do something that's not Brisbane. We should be developing more quintessential Queensland and Brisbane design," Ian says.

"No Hamptons," Andrew concurs.

Architect: Wrightson Stewart, 3252 9516

Builder: Oxford Construction, 0409 765 552

Photography: Kylie Hood

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