

‘The bones are great but the rooms weren’t placed logically.’

When the owner first laid eyes on this old Woolstores apartment in Brisbane’s inner-north Teneriffe, his dreams of a bachelor pad were realised. Here was a lovely, raw heritage building, with sprinklers, pipes and beams as thick as tree trunks all exposed, and rough brick walls under saw-tooth ceilings. He asked designers Ian Wrightson and Steven Stewart of Wrightson Stewart to revamp the tired spaces to a higher level of comfort and style.

“When we first saw the place, the layout was all wrong,” says Wrightson. “The bones are great but the rooms weren’t placed logically, and the whole place was tired and rundown.”

He and Stewart reorganised the floor plan, placing the living room and kitchen in the main space with a mezzanine bedroom and ensuite. They also inserted their first modular kitchen, from their WS

Workshop range, a test case that has proven a great success. They transformed what they called a “caravan kitchen” with a long Carrara marble servery counter, American walnut cabinetry, and a splashback of solid glazed black bricks. “We’ve always liked working with a masculine palette,” says Stewart. In deference to the bachelor pad theme, a built-in vintage cocktail cabinet was also placed near the leather lounges and deep-pile vintage rug, while the loft bedroom features a splendidly refurbished ensuite bathroom in black-and-white tiles and a vintage basin from a hospital.

Contrasting paint colours honour the building’s heritage aspects. “The painter lay on his back for days painting the sprinklers and pipes on the ceiling,” says Wrightson. “He claimed he could have joined Cirque du Soleil after it all.”

WORDS MARGIE FRASER
PHOTOGRAPHY KYLIE HOOD



Bachelor chic ... (from far left) The mezzanine bedroom, living space and ensuite bathroom acknowledge this former woolstore apartment’s heritage aspects.