



ucked behind a picket fence and a stand of magnolias in Melbourne's inner north lies a cleverly appointed home in which old and new coexist harmoniously. An easy synergy has been struck between the charming heritage facade and an inspired renovation that perfectly accommodates a young family.

Daylight now streams into the compact former worker's cottage; pre-transformation, the only sunny room was the laundry. "It had the best location in the house, as it overlooked the garden great if you were doing the washing, but that was about it," says owner Alice, laughing.

She and Brett bought the two-bedroom cottage in 2004, shortly after moving from New Zealand. "We've been here ever since," says Alice. "We love Melbourne, particularly this part of it. We really are very privileged to live where we do."

The home's ultra-central location is all the more appealing for its friendly village vibe, something Alice and Ben really

appreciate since becoming parents to son Hugo, six, and Manny, three. "We live in such a great community, and I think that's probably why we have stayed," says Alice. "We know everyone in the local shops and all of our neighbours. They've watched our children grow up."

Phase one of their renovation, in 2005, involved restumping and rewiring the ageing terrace. A mottled green carpet was replaced by polished-concrete flooring. "That was all we needed to do at the time," says Alice. "But once I was pregnant with Manny, we realised that we needed more space."

In late 2015, the couple engaged Antony Martin of MRTN Architects and builders Technique Construction Group, giving them a simple brief. An additional bedroom with ensuite was their original priority; but the budget was later expanded to also allow for a new kitchen.

Antony's visionary plans turned the conventional terrace renovation on its head. "The standard approach in a lot of these single-fronted terraces is to add an additional bedroom and a bathroom above the living area," says the architect. "But this often means you end up with a compromised space upstairs,

while also detracting from the living space downstairs due to an incorporated staircase. We decided to treat this project in a very different way."

'We soon realised that we needed more space. We considered moving but really didn't really want to leave.' Alice





'All of our furniture has been chosen because we love the look of it and because it wears really well.' Alice

LIVING/DINING Hugo gets creative on the String storage system from Great Dane, which features a nifty pull-out desk. Stool, kea. WK dining table, Industria X. Vintage Dutch industrial chairs. Modern Times. Artwork by Brooke Holm. "I like to have things on a wall; I don't like a lot of blank spaces," says Alice. HALL/STUDY Along its 10m-length, the cloister-like new hallway incorporates a compact workspace and, in the foreground, a casual seating area with a large window/door that opens up to the courtyard garden. Stairs lead up to the new parents' suite. Chapel Red bricks, Austral Bricks.

Designer buy: Flare wall lights, from \$385 each, Ross Gardam.

ENSUITE "Having our own bathroom is just brilliant," says Alice.

Terracotta wall tiles, Artedomus. Mosaic splashback tiles and honed basalt floor tiles, Classic Ceramics. Custom vanity in American oak veneer, Sink, Rogerseller. Tap and showerhead, Vola. Towels, Southwood Home. For Where To Buy, see page 187.

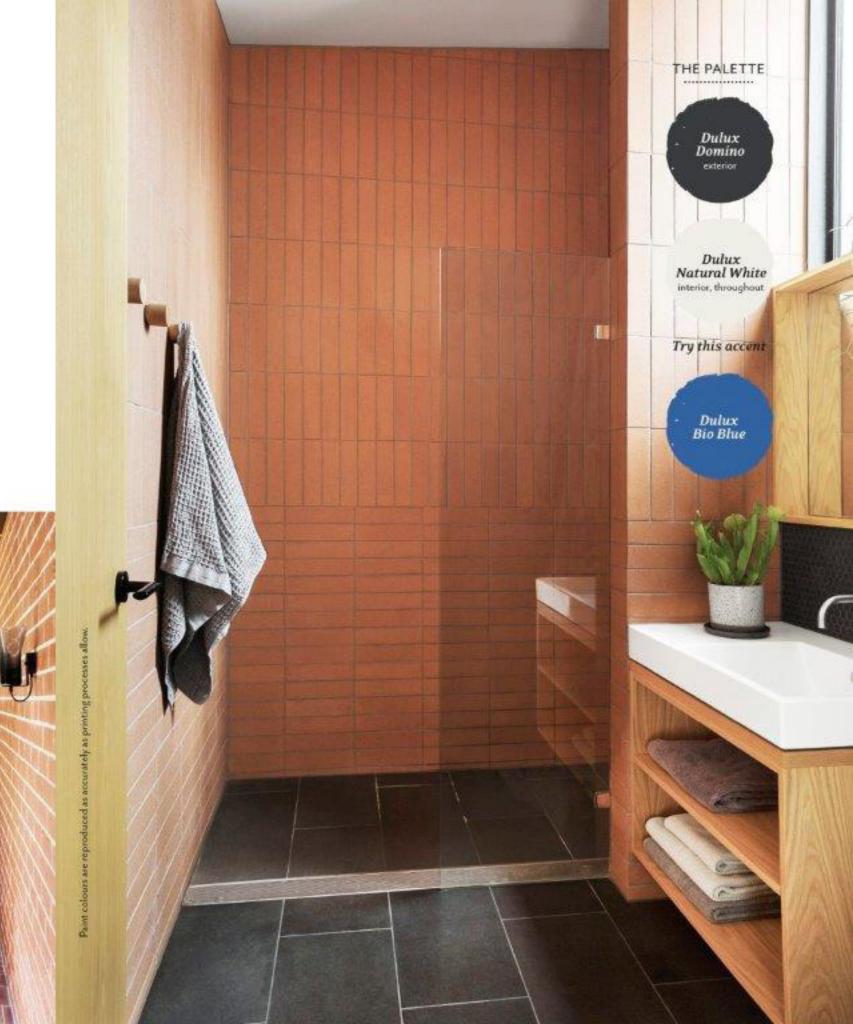
Instead, a striking blackbutt-clad parents' wing was built above the existing garage, connected to the home by a 10m-long brick hallway with sunlit work, play and storage areas.

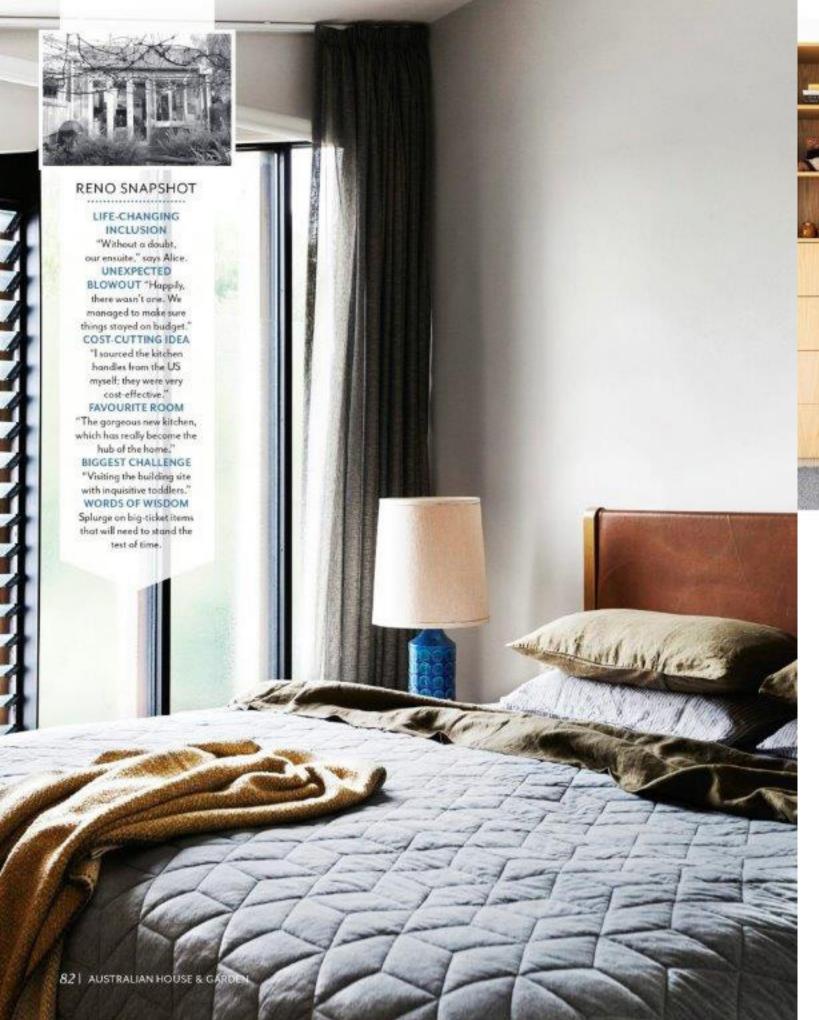
Given the scale of the renovation, the family moved out for the duration of the works. "We rented for six months, then house-sat and went to visit family in New Zealand," says Alice. "It wasn't easy living out of a suitcase with two small children, but it was well worth it when we moved back in."

In their luminous new kitchen and open-plan living zone, the organic beauty of marble surfaces has been effectively teamed with American oak joinery in a mix of natural and inky hues. And, much to the homeowners' delight, the house is now visually connected to the leafy garden from many of the rooms. Favourite vintage pieces furnish the interior and cherished artworks endow spaces with personality and drama.

"In a smaller home, every space and every piece of furniture has to work very hard," says Alice. "All of our furniture has been chosen because we love the look of it and because it wears really well."

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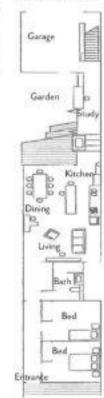


THE LAYOUT

FIRST FLOOR

GROUND FLOOR





'I like honest, natural materials with lots of texture coming through.' Alice

MAIN BEDROOM left and opposite "Being able to see the green of the garden, the sky and rooftops from up high gives what is really quite a small bedroom a sense of space," says Alice. Custom American-oak veneer joinery. Vintage bedside table. For similar lamp, try Hub Furniture. Sheets, pillowcases and felt plant pot, Hunting for George. Hydra throw in Mustard, Southwood Home. Roller blind and curtains by Clearview Sun Control, in Allusion linen-blend fabric in Cookie. Stanefields carpet in Slate, Feltex Carpets. Artwork by Ellie Malin.

Designer buy: Finley bed, from \$4976. Jardan.

COURTYARD Hugo and a friendly lion share secrets in their pap-up play space. Behind them, the two-storey addition is clad in Baral Timber shiplap in blackbutt with a Cutek oil finish.

Windows in painted mild steel, Architectural Steel. Tent, Tigeroy.

For Where to Buy, see page 187.

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