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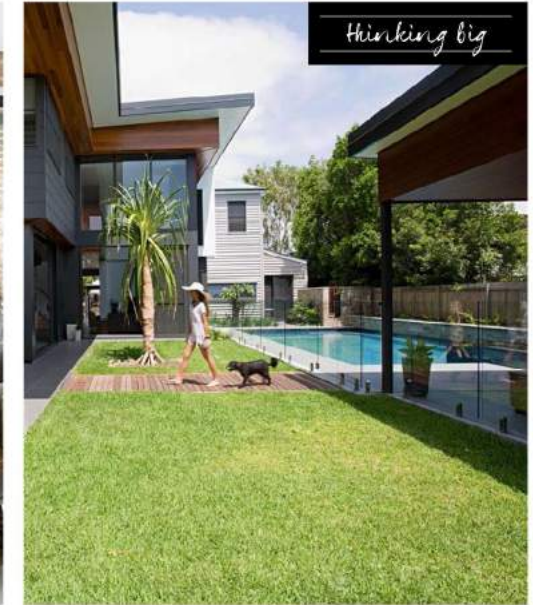
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INDULGE IN A PYJAMA DAY WRAPPED IN LUSCIOUS LINENS,
RICH VELVETS AND LAYERS OF SEASONAL SOFTNESS

STYLE SCHOOL
ACCESSORISE WITH
PENDANTS, ART & RUGS

5 STAR SPA
EXPERT INSPIRATION
FOR A LUXE BATHROOM

RENOVATING • DECORATING • ENTERTAINING • OUTDOOR LIVING



FAMILY RENO SPECIAL | 2016

THESE FOUR STYLISH, FAMILY-FRIENDLY RENOVATIONS
HAVE ALL THE INSPIRATION, ADVICE AND BUDGET
INFO YOU NEED TO CREATE YOUR DREAM HOME



NORTHERN LIGHT

THE NEEDS OF THREE ACTIVE SONS TOOK PRIORITY WHEN THESE PARENTS CONVERTED THIS 1940S FIBRO INTO A MODERN HOME

WORDS SHELLEY TUSTIN STYLING LISA HILTON PHOTOGRAPHY SUE STUBBS



POOL Installed by the previous owner, the pool was a major selling point for new owners Michelle and Mark and their three boys (pictured), even though the surrounding area had never been finished. "We left the pool untouched, but built a platform around it," explains Michelle, an architect. Timber benches provide a place to sit, while the rest of the platform is paved in almond granite on a base of fibre cement sheeting – materials chosen for their fire-resistant nature. >

Who lives here? Michelle, an architect; her husband, Mark, a lawyer; and their sons, Lachlan, 14, Griffin, 13, and Owen-Jack, seven.

Location: Sydney's northern suburbs. **Original property:** A pre-World War II fibro, which had been partially renovated by a previous owner.

Time frame: Six months.

Why this house? While the old building was nothing to write home about, the couple fell in love with the location, bordered by bush; the size of the building, which had been extended by the previous owner; and the divine northern light.

Why the reno? "The house was ugly - you forget how bad it was!" says Michelle. Plus, with the arrival of youngest son, Owen-Jack, elder boys Lachlan and Griffin were sharing a modest bedroom and were desperate for their own space. Although the house had been extended previously, it was also full of unusable spaces; internally, the living areas copped the scorching force of the western sun, while externally, Michelle recalls, "The pool didn't have a balustrade, so we never really had people over because we were worried it wasn't very safe. Also, the back garden just sloped away - it was a weed pit and we never used it."

Main works: The original kitchen was torn out to become an extra bedroom, while a new kitchen was installed in the former rear living room and made more thermally comfortable with strategically placed louvres and bushfire shutters (installed to meet safety requirements, but serving a double purpose as sun protection) and airconditioning. Outside, the pool area was upgraded, the backyard levelled and the front porch given a striking makeover.

Favourite aspect? "I love it all!" enthuses Michelle, who had been redeveloping the home in her head since they moved in. "Before, I would see how it could be, not how it was. But now, it's exactly how I imagined."



Next to the open-plan kitchen, a leather reading chair and ottoman in Natural Birch from The Modern Furniture Store create a relaxing corner.



Joiners MS Interiors crafted the kitchen, a straight run of two-pac cabinetry in Dulux Monument and Antique White USA, framed by a luxurious touch of ironbark timber veneer. "It was about bringing the same palette from outside to inside," says Michelle.



KITCHEN What was a modest kitchen has been converted into a functional space, where pantry doors hide pull-out drawers, featuring Blum's soft-closed system, an appliance cupboard looks after the electronic clutter and a stepped shelf at the back of the bench protects the mirrored splashback from splatter. "It also extends the bench space," says Michelle, who opted for an Aero 'MD Desk 1800' and 'Slim' workstation on castors in place of a fixed island. The workstation slides over the 'table' - convenient for creating extra floor space. The 'Ines' chairs in White, from Instyle Seating, are stackable. A yellow box timber tray on the workstation, from Riverbank Design, is an organic counterpoint to the expanse of white. >

"PLATE GLASS AND large windows IN THE NEW KITCHEN ALLOW ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE BOYS IN THE POOL AND BACKYARD" - MICHELLE

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

KITCHEN: Bench and table: 'MD Desk 1800' table, from \$675, workstation on wheels, \$800, both Aero Designs.com.au. **Cabinetry:** 2-pac cabinetry in Dulux Antique White USA and Dulux Monument, ironbark timber veneer accents, Silestone benchtop and mirrored splashback, \$25,000, MS Interiors. **Appliances:** Live upright cooker with teppanyaki plate, \$5160, live concealed rangehood, \$995, both Winning Appliances. Electrolux 700-litre side-by-side refrigerator, \$1999, 2nds World. **Tapware:** 'Niagara' swivel spout, \$599, Franke. **Stockists, page 220**



LESSONS LEARNED: "Don't cut quality. IT'S BEST TO TAKE ON A SMALLER AMOUNT OF WORK AND DO IT PROPERLY" - MICHELLE



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

BATHROOM: Tiles: Glass and stone mix mosaics, \$33 sheet, 300mm x 300mm, rectified wall tiles in Gloss White, 600mm x 150mm, \$46.20/sqm, 'Noce' matt porcelain floor tiles, 300mm x 300mm, \$55/sqm, all Exclusive Tiles. Vanity bench: Stone composite surface in Snow, \$450/sqm installed, Caesarstone. **FRONT EXTERIOR:** Sandstone edging: Heritage sandstone, from \$100 linear metre, The Brick Pit. Pavers: Granite Almond pavers, \$89/sqm, Amber Tiles. Paint: Weatherboard in Dulux Monument, \$89.85/4L. Front door paint: Dulux CopperSmith, \$50.85/L. **OWEN-JACK'S ROOM:** Carpet: 'Natural Springs' eco+ carpet in Ash Grey, \$73.80/sqm installed, Choices Flooring. *Stockists, page 220*

FRONT PORCH The old facade has been given a facelift with weatherboards in Dulux Monument, a hardwood verandah, pavers and old sandstone blocks.



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

POOL: Pavers: Granite Almond pavers, \$89/sqm, Amber Tiles. **LIVING ROOM** Fireplace: Heat & Glo '130' insert series gas fire, \$4300, Jetmaster. Wall paint: Dulux Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology in Antique White USA, \$71.90/4L, and Monument (behind shelves), \$85.90/4L. **HALLWAY:** Floors: Sanding and limewashing with Porter's Paints Original Lime Wash in White, \$7500, Brothers Floor Sanding. *Stockists, page 220*

HALLWAY The front door previously opened directly into the living room, so relocating it to an adjacent bit of hallway (above left) was a no-brainer for Michelle and Mark. The resulting area is generously proportioned, with plenty of room for a low shelving unit, from Freedom, to catch the household detritus of keys and phones. A West Elm armoire is now used as a linen cupboard, while a circular French Bazaar 'Bloomingville' seagrass rug reflects the shape of the wall mirror (for similar, try Mark Tuckey).

LIVING ROOM Sliding doors were installed to open up the living room (above), inviting in a delicious cross-breeze and connecting the space to the adjacent back deck. A comfortable space in summer, it's also Michelle's favourite space in winter, too, where she curls up in one of the 'Club Classic' armchairs from Bay Leather Republic that stand around the 'Replica Isamu Noguchi' coffee table, found at Matt Blatt. The chimneybreast in sandstone pavers accommodates a Jetmaster gas fire and a painting by Mark. A clever little cubby behind the chimneybreast hides the switch for the fire and has enough space for all the necessary cords if they ever decide to fit a TV there. Floating shelves of merbau timber against a backdrop in Dulux Monument echo the external palette.

BACK DECK In summer, the previously smaller space was sweltering from midday on, thanks to a polycarbonate pergola. The revamped area (left) is big enough to fit a large ironbark table - the first item Michelle and Mark bought when they were married - which is perfect for entertaining (for similar, try Early Settler), and a sideboard (the 'Essential' teak sideboard from Oishi is similar). A 'White Lines' jute-cotton rug from Epoch Design Co lends softness underfoot. The steel frame allows for an uninterrupted view of the pool without the need for supporting columns, but the most dramatic addition is Louvretec bi-fold shutters, which can be used to block out the summer sun and angled to catch every breeze. >

RENOVATION TIMELINE & SOURCE DETAILS

DECEMBER 2005

Michelle, Mark and their children (then just the two eldest boys) move in. Over the next eight years, they work on minor improvements, such as expanding and renovating the bathroom, painting walls and limewashing the floors.

OCTOBER 2013

The major renovation launches with a bang, as Michelle's preferred foreman at Jetcharm Constructions becomes available, forcing her to scramble to get her plans finalised in a hurry!

DECEMBER 2013

The outdoor renovation, including the area around the pool, the back deck and all site services, including stormwater and sewer works, are completed just in time for Christmas.

JANUARY 2014

The builders move inside, transferring the kitchen to the rear of the home, installing new doors and windows, renovating the staircase and living area, enhancing the front porch and installing a new roof and driveway.

2015

Michelle and Mark spend time on the finishing touches, such as installing a new fireplace and shelves in the living room, more bushfire shutters for sun protection, landscaping and a few final furnishings.

ARCHITECT

Michelle Walker, 0422 393 600, mwarchitects.net.au.

BUILDER

Jetcharm Constructions, (02) 8095 8803, jetcharm.com.au.

PLANS

