

H&G
RENOVATION SPECIAL
1940s bungalow flip

REAR EXTENSION / A wraparound clerestory window was designed to capture northern light. The rear elevation is clad in James Hardie Scyon Axon cement-composite panels. Dining table, Space. Chairs, Freedom. Sofa, Fanuli. Cushions, Citta Design. Side table, Jordan. Rug, Koskela. Artwork by Angela Hawkney, commissioned through Design Art Solutions. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 194.

Track to the FUTURE

In Sydney, a 1940s facade hides a sizzling 21st-century home.

STORY JUDY BAROUCH / STYLING LOUISE BICKLE
PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER





KITCHEN / Christine with Alessia and Xavier at the island bench in Caesarstone Frosty Carrina; its waterfall end is angled to echo the new roofline. Replica Tractor stools, Matt Blatt. Jug, Collector Store.
EXTERIOR / A new front door and Sunbrella awning amp up the home's street appeal. The old carport is now a lock-up garage. Doormat, Koskela. Letterbox, Ute Design.
LIVING / A low-lying strip window brings in green views.
DINING / Christine slides open the door to the library/games room, which can also be employed as a guestroom or used to hide kids' clutter.
Designer buy: Gubi Semi pendant lights, from \$349/each, Cult. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 194.

There aren't many people who would allow themselves to be woken through the night to check the progress of a 24-hour roast, but Carlo and Christine Rinaudo have no such qualms. Pride of place in their new outdoor kitchen is a gourmet ceramic barbecue designed for slow-cooked meals such as pulled pork, brisket and American-style ribs.

"The oven's digital thermometer 'talks' to Carlo's phone and if the temperature cranks up too high, he gets up and rushes out to check on the meat," says Christine. "A lot of love goes into Carlo's slow cooks!"

Perfectionism is a hallmark of the couple's approach to cooking and is also evident in the minimalist yet detailed renovation by architect Mark Szczerbicki of their 1940s bungalow in Sydney's inner west.

The owners loved the character of the property and elected not to render its red-brick facade. Instead, a new entry door, fence, awning and landscaping have freshened up its street appeal. The internal layout, however, was back to front for the couple and their two young children, Xavier, six, and Alessia, five. "The main living area faced the street and had no connection to the rear garden," says Mark. "The bedrooms were at the back with only a single door and little stairway leading outside."

The family moved out in May 2014 and by the time they moved back in six months later, the floor plan had been flipped. The front sunroom was converted into the main bedroom while an ensuite was created from part of the adjoining dining room. Two mirror-image bedrooms for the children were positioned on the northern side of the house ▶



THE PALETTE

Dulux
Natural White
 interior,
 throughout

Colorbond
Surfmist
 picket fence

Colorbond
Monument
 extension exterior

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



This is the life

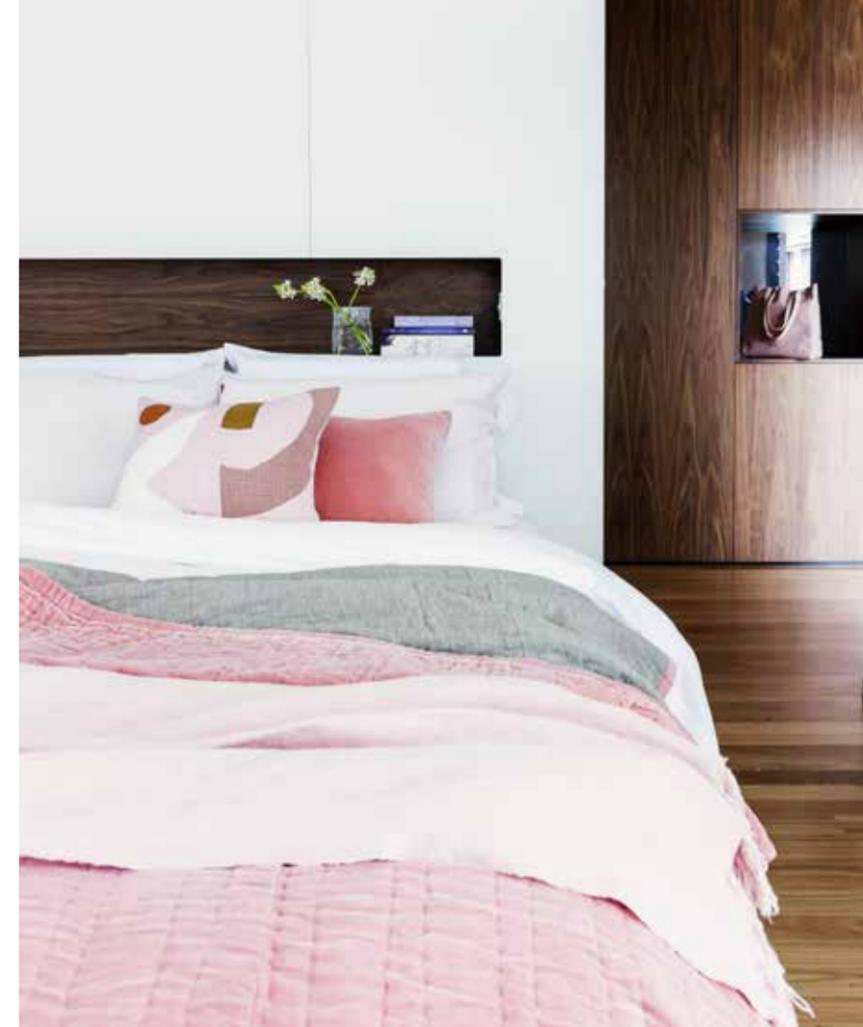
Christine and Carlo both have busy work lives, so they like their home to be as calm and ordered as is possible with two young children. Multiple storage options throughout the interior ensure a clutter-free environment. The ace up their sleeve is a set of sliding doors alongside the kitchen/dining area, concealing a multipurpose room. "Any stray toys can be quickly thrown in there and we simply close the door," says Christine.

THE LAYOUT



'To avoid sibling rivalry, the children's rooms were designed to have the same features.' Carlo Rinaudo

MAIN BEDROOM / Here and throughout the house, custom joinery by Ital Furniture features a mix of display and hidden storage. Quilt, throw, cushion covers and bag, Citta Design.
ALESSIA'S ROOM / Alessia shows off pretty jewellery boxes and books on her display shelves, while her brother prefers to feature Lego in his. Bedlinen, basket and artwork, Lilly & Lolly.
Smart buy: Daisy rug, from \$210, Lilly & Lolly.
BATHROOM / A lightwell illuminates moody charcoal ceramics. "At night, LED strip lighting makes the water from the rainshower glisten," says Carlo. Forme bath, Harvey Norman. Ellisse tap, Parisi. Tiles, Skheme. Stool, Koskela. Towel, Citta Design. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 194.



◀ in order to best access sunlight, while the new internal family bathroom is illuminated by a large, operable lightwell.

At the end of the corridor, down four steps, lies the new open-plan kitchen, dining and living area. A large sliding door merges this flexible zone with the compact backyard, providing a perfect indoor-outdoor space for a family that loves entertaining. In a masterstroke, a small rear garage hugging the boundary was converted into a playroom; one wall was partially removed and the room now opens via glazed sliding doors onto a deck and the back garden.

While the reworked building is still modest in size – an area of just 55m² was added to the original 190m² footprint – any family paraphernalia is kept in check with plentiful custom joinery. "Carlo doesn't like clutter. He prefers everything concealed, like a secret service," says Christine with a laugh.

This is a shoes-off house, and just inside the threshold there's a walnut-veneer unit for storing shoes and gumboots, plus schoolbags and raincoats. The adjacent full-height entry door impressively captures shards of sunlight through a series of vertical Perspex strips. Telegraphing Christine and Carlo's eye for detail, it hints that beyond the unassuming exterior, a contemporary style feat awaits. Not that most guests notice. They are too intent on heading out back to see what's cooking. ▶

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Before

Reno snapshot

Renovation cost \$700,000+

Goal To create a connection between the living zones and backyard, and a private bedroom zone at the front.

Solution The internal layout was flipped and a garage fitted with glass sliding doors to function as a playroom (and occasional disco) adjacent to the outdoor entertaining area.

Words of wisdom "Invest time in choosing your architect and builder," says Carlo. "This decision can make the project either enjoyable and rewarding, or stressful and over budget."

FEATURE PLANTS

- FRONT PATH
Sedum 'Gold Mound'
- NORTHERN BOUNDARY
Star jasmine
(*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)
- SOUTHERN BOUNDARY
Slender weaver's bamboo (*Bambusa textilis 'Gracilis'*)
- BACKYARD
Sir Walter buffalo grass



DECK / Carlo tends to one of his epic slow cooks as the rest of the family relaxes under a retractable Eureka Awnings shade. Primo grill. Tucker Horizon barbecue, BBQ Factory. Custom table with Carrara marble top. Chairs, Ikea. Tray and planter, Tait.

CABANA/PLAYROOM / "We celebrated Carlo's 40th birthday here with a party for more than 50 and used the cabana as a disco," says Christine. Console, Orient House. Armchair, Ikea. Chair, Freedom. Play table, yellow stool, rug and artwork, all Lilly & Lolly. Rope quoits set, Koskela. **FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 194.** **H&G**

