

old meets new

# In perfect harmony

Contemporary additions don't have to compromise the integrity of an older home in a heritage neighbourhood, as these remodelling projects demonstrate





# Best of both worlds

This traditional Queenslander has undergone an extensive makeover that has created a new entry sequence and garaging, and an expansive, light-filled interior

**With their deep verandas, decorative fretwork and balustrading,** traditional Queenslanders were always designed to have street appeal in abundance. But it was often a different story on the interior – these houses were invariably dark and inward looking.

Such properties were also never designed to accommodate off-street parking, let alone garaging for two or more cars.

All these challenges have been addressed in this major renovation designed by architect Shaun Lockyer of Shaun Lockyer Architects.

“The house has been given a contemporary

treatment on the interior, and we wanted to make reference to this on the exterior,” he says. “At the same time we needed to maintain the traditional, rather whimsical cottage features that define the Queenslander.”

Lockyer says it was essential to disguise the large mass of the new garage, which is parallel to the street. Consequently, the floor level was dug down into the ground, and a new wall and landscaping introduced to the boundary. The trees will be trimmed as they mature, to create a hedge that will help to screen the building without blocking the view from above.

*Preceding pages and facing page:* The new garage at the front of this traditional Queenslander has been partially disguised by a new front wall and landscaping. A large skylight on the garage sits within a rooftop garden. The new pedestrian entry has a contemporary design that references the nature of the changes to the house interior.

*Above:* A buffet cabinet in the main living area incorporates a mirrored panel that reflects light and greenery.



**Above:** As well as designing the renovation, Shaun Lockyer Architects was responsible for the interior design. A textural palette of dark neutrals is punctuated with accents of black, noticeably in custom furniture painted in Japan black. The designers also opted to forgo dozens of downlights in the centre of the ceiling, preferring to specify pendants, with several downlights washing the walls with light. The xxxx pendant lights are a mix of blown glass and silk.

The pedestrian entry was moved to the far left of the wall, where a new gate is set beneath a contemporary canopy. "This is a very deliberate structure that speaks strongly of the whole concept of entry," says Lockyer. "It has a solid form, like the garage, yet there is a degree of detailing and a play of shadow that adds interest. The path leads up around the garage and past a rooftop garden with a huge skylight that brings a flood of natural light into the garage. The skylight also works in reverse – at night it shines like a lantern, lighting the pathway."

The architect introduced a recycled timber bench seat to the rooftop garden, so the owners could sit and enjoy the expansive city view from the front of the house. Narrow spotted gum fence palings that echo the style of the existing balustrading are another new addition.

Although the front door is still in its original position, it now opens to a light-filled passage, courtesy of a new skylight.

"Formerly, this was a very long and dark hallway," says the architect. "As well as bringing in natural light, we shortened the length of the passage by removing a freestanding wall



**Left:** New sliding doors open up the study, which was formerly a bedroom. There is also an internal window providing a visual connection with the living area – the owners say the study doubles as the homework room for their school-age children. New blackbutt hardwood flooring replaces the original hoop pine that was scratched and yellowing.



**Above:** Large openings with new sliding doors not only bring more light into the living area, but also free up space on the veranda. To maximise cross ventilation, doors and windows can be opened on all sides of the house. In several areas, new louvre windows replace the original sash windows, as they can be left partially open when it rains.

that formed the back of the kitchen in the living area. We also converted the last bedroom on the left into a study with a large sliding door – a new internal window maintains a strong visual connection with the living space.”

Lockyer says introducing light into the dark interior and opening up the living spaces to the outdoors were the major drivers for the design, but these could not be at the expense of the heritage aspects of the house.

“We needed to work within the constraints of the envelope, and just touch the edges lightly,” he says. “A lot of the changes were subtle, but

they have made a huge difference in terms of lifestyle. For example, we replaced all the bifold doors to the verandas with large sliding doors. Traditionally, Queenslander verandas were designed for shade and shelter from the rain, not for outdoor living, so they are not overly large. When the bifold doors were open, the space on the verandas was diminished. The sliding doors provide a much more usable outdoor living area. They are also higher than the original doors, so let in much more light.”

The design team moved the position of the kitchen and added a corner window to maximise



**Left:** The architects designed a cantilevered entertainment unit, which features ironbark and decorative Nero Marquina granite. The unit incorporates a gas fireplace and television. Uplighting behind the unit enhances the floating effect. Splashes of red and white in the seating area ensure the dark neutral colour palette has plenty of pizzazz.



**Architect:** Shaun Lockyer, Neva Wethereld, Shaun Lockyer Architects (Fortitude Valley, Qld)  
**Interior designer:** Corinne Bolton  
**Builder:** CGH Constructions  
**Louvres:** Breezway  
**Door and window hardware:** Designer Doorware  
**Skylights:** Velux  
**Tile flooring:** Travertine from Eco Outdoor  
**Wall tiles:** Beaumont from Classic Ceramics  
**Hardwood flooring:** Queensland Timber Flooring  
**Paints and varnishes:** Dulux; Resene  
**Lighting:** Neva Wethereld Designs; Caribou; LAD Group; Beacon; ECC  
**Fireplace:** Diamond Fyre from Lopi  
**Kitchen cabinets:** Lacquered; by Gary Wathen  
**Benchtops:** Quantum Quartz Alpine White  
**Splashback:** Mirror  
**Oven, cooktop and dishwasher:** Miele  
**Refrigeration:** Liebherr

**Story by** Colleen Hawkes  
**Photography by** Scott Burrows

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**Above:** The house opens up to a leafy, sunny aspect at the rear, with steps leading down from the veranda to the pool area. Glass balustrading ensures the view of the pool is not blocked from the new family living room on the lower level. As the pool area is on a higher level than the surrounding landscape, the side of the pool facing the lawn has an open aspect.



a view that had formerly been blocked. The kitchen now receives more light than it did when it was in the middle of the house, and has a direct connection with the outdoors.

Shaun Lockyer Architects also undertook all the interior design for the project, replacing the yellowing, damaged hoop pine flooring with blackbutt hardwood. The colour of the floor matches the new rosewood doors and windows in the living areas. New ceilings replicate the original painted boards.

Wood also features in built-in cabinetry – the entertainment unit in the living room is a mix of

ironbark and a white-veined black granite. And the kitchen cabinets team ironbark veneer with white lacquer. Textured furnishings and custom furniture and chairs painted in black Japan provide lively accents.

“Before the renovation, the entire house was death by beige, both inside and out,” Lockyer says. “Although we have introduced a relatively restrained material palette, there is a richness to the interior that makes the home very warm and welcoming. We also ensured the exterior had a lot more visual impact by adding accents, such as the dark trim on the gutters and railings.”

**Far left:** On the lower level, the prime position facing the pool had formerly been occupied by the laundry and a bathroom. This area is now a second family room with large sliding doors opening to the poolscapes. Other rooms on this level include a new laundry and three bedrooms. There is also internal access from the garage on the same level.