

RENOVATION TAKES ON A NEW ANGLE

A family's much-loved Queenslander will undergo a Madonna-inspired transformation, writes **Alex Tilbury**

IT'S a debate as long as time: do you stay and renovate your Queenslander or move?

But for Nick and Carolyn Penkils there really was no debate.

They loved their Paddington post-war Queenslander cottage so much that they were in it for the long haul.

For now the family, including son Alexander, 15, and Ava, 13, along with Archie their six-year-old dog, have now moved out into a nearby rental in Toowong as their epic year-long renovation project takes shape.

The family spent a year designing their dream home with their award-winning architect Shaun Lockyer, who called in builder James Bragg, well-known for his bespoke projects.

"We wanted a balance in our renovation of old and new. We

love the facade of our Queenslander and our initial renovation some 14 years ago was to continue that tradition on both levels," said Mr Penkils, who is the managing director and auctioneer at Space Property Agents in Paddington.

Mr Penkils said his brief to Mr Lockyer involved "Madonna's corical-shaped bay".

"We wanted to bring the inside outside and it's a bit controversial as we don't have a verandah. We're using triangular shapes. We added for two points," he said.

"We will retain the front facade and the back will be very modern. Our brief was for privacy and we love the old and the new. We love old houses with a modern twist and when they are done well, they can be just spectacular.

"We have known Shaun for a

while and always enjoyed our conversations and admired his work.

"If you don't have a good relationship with your architect or builder then there is going to be a lot more pain in the process. We have also sold properties through Space that have had Shaun's stamp on them and they have always been very well received in the market.

"We were very open-minded and tried not to influence Shaun too much, however gave him enough to let his creative side work his magic.

"He made a very good point in one of our meetings that although habitats (us included) had two of everything, it was highly likely that only one predominantly gets used, like decks, kitchens and living areas.

"What was important to us



DREAM PROJECT: Carolyn and Nick Penkils inspect renovations on their pre-war Queenslander cottage in Paddington.

with teenage children were areas that we can enjoy together as a family, or wear they can enjoy with friends."

Mr Lockyer said the design has remained true to what the Penkils originally wanted.

"The difference between a great project and an extraordinary project is when clients take ownership of the project and realise what it takes to do something properly," he said.

"The lovely thing is there's never been any stress between us and James (Bragg). It's all been very transparent. We got James involved very early so we could work out the costs.

"Their design has the old to new and it goes from light to solid. The new cladding is all zinc and there's low-form concrete, and it's quite angular.

"We've pushed out to the furthest into the corners, to give us the widest and most

oblique view. The main living spaces have beautifully fragmented spaces with a narrow wedge at the point. What's very cool is there's no gyprock or plaster in this main living space, it's all timber on the roof and concrete.

"And we're using a brick soffit, which is a built structure - it's French, a sunscreen for privacy."

Mr Penkils said the idea of using a large rose deck on a

Queenslander may send alarm bells ringing for the purist.

"Our deck and the living/kitchen were add-ons and not original so that made the decision easier. However, we are not really losing a verandah as such as this room is designed for all seasons so it has more flexibility for use than a deck," he said.

"We'll have to wait and see what it looks like in 12 months' time.

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SHAUN LOCKYER
ARCHITECT



OLD MEETS NEW: Builder James Bragg and architects Katy Roberts and Shaun Lockyer on site at their renovation project in Paddington. The house will keep its traditional Queenslander facade (top) but the back will be a modern triangular design without a verandah.