

# Stroke of genius

Star couple lap up the comfort of their evolving house

When former Australian swimmers Libby and Luke Trickett first began planning their Seven Hills house, which was designed by architect Shaun Lockyer, a pool was not on the top of their list of priorities. There were a few other must-haves to pay for first.

Now, two years after they moved into the house, they're almost ready to expand, and the pool is first in line.

"We want a 25m lap pool with two lanes, so Libby and I can race each other," Luke laughs.

The couple, who share the house with their three dogs – Buddy, Wilson and Harry – put the house on the market last year due to business interests, but have since decided to stay.

What was once a dilapidated old post-war house is now a sleek, modern property, hidden away from the road by a stylish grey fence. The

couple told Shaun they wanted an open, breezy design for the sloping 804sq m block. The result is a pavilion-style property in a V-shape with high ceilings, lots of glass and rosewood timber and black cladding. The decking, floors and parts of the ceiling have been created with recycled tallowwood from the historic Hornibrook Bridge at Redcliffe that was demolished in 2010.

Shaun says they wanted to make the most of the house's northern outlook and to connect with the ground as much as possible. A 6m drop from the front to the back of the block required some creative development. "We started with a big block building and chiselled it away to create the house," Shaun says. "Libby and Luke were great clients to work with because they knew how they wanted to feel in the house, but trusted us to develop the design."

From the front door, a guest pavilion on the right houses two bedrooms – one of which is



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being used as an office by Luke – a bathroom with pale travertine flooring, and a separate toilet. Windows have been used cleverly to frame parts of the house and highlight the use of timber and black cladding on the outside. Other parts of the property feature dark grey slate on the floors.

In the other pavilion, the dining area leads to the veranda via timber and glass sliding doors. Libby says the wide stairs from the veranda down to the lawn are often used as seating.

The kitchen has white stone benchtops, a black glass splashback and black cupboards. Timber has been used on the side of the island bench and on the kitchen ceiling. A pantry on one side of the kitchen leads to the laundry. Libby's office is on the other side.

Eventually, stairs will be put in here leading to an extension with two more bedrooms, a rumpus room and bathroom, and to the pool. The lounge room has a large sandstone feature wall and fireplace. Frameless sash windows look out on to the Gateway Bridge.

"In winter you can sit here in a T-shirt and still be warm with the fire going," Libby says.

The main bedroom adjoins an ensuite bathroom with a bath and a walk-in wardrobe. "It's lovely in the bedroom at night because you can leave all the windows open and watch the possums walk along the power lines," Luke says. "We've lived in houses before that didn't really feel like ours. But this house really feels like a home that has been designed for us. I don't have a tailor-made suit, but if I did, I would imagine it would feel as comfortable as this house."



For Libby, the end result was more than she could have dreamt of. "When we started designing this house, I had no idea exactly what I wanted, but I wanted it to be airy and breezy. We had pictured the fireplace and the floors and that really encapsulated the look we wanted ... We didn't build the house with the intention of that being the end of it. We expect it to evolve as our family evolves."

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**OUTREACH ...** The pavilions have an open and breezy design. **PHOTOGRAPHS** • Scott Burrows