

AUSTRALIAN

HOUSE & GARDEN

Renovate & profit

*Gorgeous ways
to add value to
your home*

DECOR UPDATE!

- + sumptuous fabrics
- + window dressing
- + cosy autumn nooks

6 PRIZE-WINNING GARDEN DESIGNS

Closet secrets

From walk-in robes
to clever cupboards

Buyer's guide to beds

TREATS FOR MUM

- chefs' childhood favourites
- gifts she'll treasure
- beautiful flowers that last





A respect for "a spirit of place" motivated Sally and Peter Cameron to save an 1870s farmhouse in suburban Adelaide from demolition. "The previous owners had lived here happily as a family for 40 years. So had other families before them. This knowledge meant a lot to me, because I like a house to have history," Sally explains.

Despite its lovely spirit, the house wasn't quite the dream home the couple, who live here with their sons Josh, eight, and Charlie, six, were after. So they embarked on an ambitious plan to renovate the original building, plus add two extensions.

The house started life as a dairy, and, according to architect David Burton of Williams Burton Architects, was "a rabbit warren of rooms and passages". In order to make the home feel inviting, yet give each member of the family their own sanctuary, David decided the house required "radical surgery", and started by reversing the orientation of the layout.

"Due to various additions and subdivisions over the years, the house ended up with a sort of lean-to facing the street and the front door facing the backyard," says David. "By reinstating the entrance on the street-side of the property, we completely reconfigured the path of access and the overall flow."

Now, the entrance hall leads through the original part of the house into a gallery space, which acts as a sort of pinwheel, feeding into the main bedroom and games room to the left, formal dining and media rooms to the right, and through to ►



TOP The feature Kanmantoo-bluestone fireplace extends outdoors. Lampshades in Mokum Martinique in Champagne. Sofas and bench seats from Natuzzi. Custom-made ottoman, ReadyFlor Southern Box timber flooring by Premium Floors. Joinery by Metro Joinery. **ABOVE** A dedicated media room means the electronic equipment

doesn't clutter up the living area. Armchairs and beanbags from Natuzzi. Coffee table from David Jones. Paintings by Karen Plisko from Silver Earth. **OPPOSITE** Clad in western red cedar, the outdoor dining pavilion exudes a holiday resort vibe. Custom-made table. Rausch chairs from Domo Collections. For Where To Buy, see page 228.



◀ the large open-plan kitchen/dining room and living area at the rear of the house. The children's bedrooms are located in the small extension on the western side of the home. On the eastern side, within the footprint of the original building, the main bedroom suite and study form a parents' retreat – "where there is peace and quiet, well away from the living areas", says Sally.

The design of the large extension at the rear was driven by Sally and Peter's desire to maximise the light and space, yet is in keeping with the style of the original part of the house, thanks to the use of natural-finished timbers, Kanmantoo bluestone and glass chosen by interior designer Sophia Leopardi, also of Williams Burton Architects. Decor in a palette of warm neutrals and chocolate browns complements the colours of the timber and stone, while accents of red introduce an element of fun.

Like most early colonial structures, the house required major renewal and renovation of almost every wall, plus major structural work to the roof and eaves, new roof sheeting and complete replumbing and rewiring. "There were several 'we-should-have-knocked-it-down' moments," laughs David.

The Camerons say they now have everything they want in their reinterpreted home. Thanks to a sympathetic yet thoroughly contemporary renovation, the house has had its heritage preserved and the spirit can live on.

Williams Burton Architects, Adelaide, South Australia;
(08) 8223 1177 or www.williamsburton.com.au.



TOP LEFT Located within the parents' zone, the study features a Mossant print, a souvenir from a holiday in New York. Desk and chairs from Freedom. Pendant light from Church Studios.

TOP RIGHT A stone composite-and-timber-veneer vanity makes an elegant feature in the main bedroom's ensuite. Double sink and taps from Rogerseller.

ABOVE In the main bedroom, a simple off-white-and-chocolate colour scheme allows the stylish furniture to take centre stage. Bed from David Jones. Wall lights from Arte Light.

OPPOSITE Josh (left) and Charlie play in the games room, within earshot of the kitchen. Day bed covered in Otilly & Lewis Lanoy. For Where To Buy, see page 228.





Day beds with cushions in (from left) Ottilly & Lewis Coullier Rouge, Cerise and Uni Lime. Coffee table from Domo Collections. Joinery by Metro Joinery. Cladding by VM Zinc. Pavers by Eco Concepts. Pool by Fairweather Davies. For Where To Buy, see page 228.

The project

A new layout and a light-filled extension have given this heritage farmhouse a new lease of life.



Objective: To create a comfortable home which would suit the family for the next decade and more.

Highlight: "The garden, which I have done myself – with a little help from the architect on design," says homeowner Sally Cameron. "The sheer efficiency of the new layout is a joy, too."

Lowlight: Discovering that the slate roof needed replacing, together with many of the joists and cross beams. "None of this had been budgeted for, but we're absolutely delighted with the result," says Sally.

Top tip: See products in situ, if possible. "Tiles, pavers, stone, paint colours, carpets and benchtops all look very different in a showroom or on a colour card than they do in a home," explains Sally.

