





On a small cottage, this renovated Sydney house has, with the addition of an upper level, been transformed into an expansive family home.

"Friends of ours owned the house, and we always told them if they wanted to sell, we'd love to buy," say the owners. "It's five minutes from the park, the beach and the shops, so the location is perfect. We've got close neighbours either side, which isn't ideal, but the mature trees make it feel very private."

Needing more space, the couple decided to renovate. They approached architect firm Ute-Sudby with a brief for an open-plan house with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. They didn't disappoint. "We spent the weekend poring over the plans and realised we liked it all. They were surprised when we told them there was nothing to change, but it was everything we'd hoped for."

Duncan Sudby from Ute-Sudby recalls the renovation. "In essence, we added another floor to accommodate the bedrooms, and used the extra space downstairs to create a larger living area, study and a single-car garage."

The house is open, spacious and filled with light. Translucent glass in high-level windows lets in plenty of light without sacrificing privacy and architectural details in the house, such as exposed steel, add to its character.

The front door opens onto a small lobby, with stairs to one side and a study opposite. Beyond that is the formal dining room, set beneath a central void with an open gallery above to connect the bedrooms at the front and back of the house. High-level luminaires on both sides of the void pull light into the centre of the house.

The dining room steps down to a gallery-style kitchen, with double-sided stairs that provide angle storage. A double sink, recessed into the stainless steel benchtop, is deep enough to take traps straight from the oven, directly opposite. Beyond the kitchen is the main living space, which spans the width of the house. Joinery on either side of the

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The sleek lines of Tasmanian oak veneer in the kitchen (opposite, top left) and joinery are emphasised by the lack of pull-down handles. It's a far cry from the original kitchen (top right). Bottom-left: transmounting is better at home. Fun and functional children's table and chairs from BOG. Lighting and lighting above, adding a touch of formality in the dining room table. The dining suite, from Original Finish, is set with Wedgewood china. For details see Resources.

Timber veneer is enjoying a revival in kitchens. Tasmanian oak is a good choice if you want a finish that's neither too red nor too pale.



*The simple garden is almost maintenance-free, and the flat lawn the perfect playground for children.*

Architecture by John Deane



room provides built-in storage for books and entertainment essentials.

Glass doors at the back of the house open onto a shaded patio. The lawn, with shrubs on either side, leads to a small swimming pool.

Upstairs, there are four bedrooms. A wall of storage is built-in cupboards, creating a dressing-room corridor. The reverse side of the storage wall accommodates the bed. Glass doors open onto a timber deck overlooking the garden. The shower is the ensuite is behind a glass partition, and next to doors that slide open onto the timber deck. "The kids just love running in and out of the shower and onto the deck," say the owners. It's the family's joy in their house that proves the success of this renovation. It's stylish, certainly, but above all it's a family home. ■■■■

City-Sandy Architects, Newer' Bay, NSW; call (02) 9437 0656.



The living is easy in the low-maintenance garden (opposite). The lawn reaches down to a pool, and is bordered by shrubs such as Japanese box hedging and Magnolia grandifolia. Top left: the key features of light and storage are again present in the dressing-room corridor, created by architect Uta-Sally. Above: the reverse side of dressing-room wall acts as a mirrored backdrop to the main bedroom. Automatic blinds from John Wallers Industries enable remote control over the sunlight. Below: vertical glass from Academy. This can be used to slipping effect in the ensuite bathroom. Barn-removed Corona Laser beams look into the glass-panelled shower unit and the sliding glass doors that lead out to the timber decking. For absolute see Resources.

