



FACT FILE

THE BRIEF

To turn an ageing two-bedroom semi into a light-filled, double-storey family home

THE ARCHITECT

Peter Willett from Peter Willett Associates



"It was changing the whole lifestyle of the house, to make it much more relaxed and open"

Living space

In the original property, there were separate living, formal dining, bathroom, laundry and kitchen areas. But the new design has clear areas with that.

Walking over the "Domuscan oak tongue and groove flooring into the living main living area, there is an immediate sense of space and light.

Unlike before - where the only light came from one small window on the side of the house - sunlight now streams in from the stairs, through the bifold doors at the rear of the property and in through the highlight bands of glass across the top of the wall above the doors.

The open bifold doors combine with the polished concrete flooring to enhance the sense of continuity between the indoor and outdoor spaces.

To their credit, Waverley Council note that the proposal addition would be an improvement in terms of light and amenity and was a subtle and sensible addition to the house, of low concern in appearance.

The second floor is a distinctly modern insertion into the original nest, clad in an aluminium-clad facade system.

On a narrow horizontal full single glass facade system, floating on a band of weatherboard cladding, painted dark.

"With the joinery in the kitchen it was part of the design, but the final colour selection was the client's input."

The second floor consists of two bedrooms with a new bathroom. Highlights include three of the four sides on this level.

Peter says when you are inside the space, the roof feels like it is floating on the light.

"When you fancy windows hard against the ceiling it means the light is uniformly reflecting off the ceiling so you get a very good light balance within the room," he says. "It makes a huge difference to the kind of light distribution you would find in other second-storey additions."

"It's a fairly simple thing."

phot@peterwillett.com.au

MORE INFORMATION
Peter Willett Associates



► The living area where the family can relax
► The wooden staircase and stair case enhance the natural feel of the home
► The family bathroom
► Highlight bands in the bedroom ceilings

GROUND FLOOR



Making light work

A clever reno turned an ageing semi into an airy and character-filled home, writes Ben Pike

When architect Peter Willett was approached to add a second storey to an ageing semi in the eastern suburbs, his priority was to create the clients' preferred amount of space and light.

The clients, a couple with a young child, wanted a contemporary renovation that would open up the rear of the property to the sunlight and create a more than indoor-outdoor lifestyle.

Although such a lead is common enough with the inner city's aging

housing stock, Peter wanted to break with the current trend of creating the widest end of the facade when designing the second level.

To get around this, the architect was compelled to do some wrangling with the local council.

"Typically you see pitched roof additions that sit on the surface appear to be sympathetic to the form of the area, however, they often create spaces that are light and bright," Peter says.

"Our clients' home was plagued with a

semi that already had a second-floor addition. It was going to be hard to get an atypical second floor approved - the council initially preferred a mirror copy.

To their credit, Waverley Council note that the proposal addition would be an improvement in terms of light and amenity and was a subtle and sensible addition to the house, of low concern in appearance.

The second floor is a distinctly modern insertion into the original nest, clad in an aluminium-clad facade system.

On a narrow horizontal full single glass facade system, floating on a band of weatherboard cladding, painted dark.

The dissection

It was obvious that building the second-storey addition was going to require some additional foundation work. However, it evolved that it would effectively require the house to be cut in two.

The facade, long hallway, side window in the living room and rear bedroom - both of which have impressive concrete ceilings - indicate the home was built at least 50 years ago.

Everything else from the downstairs bathroom on is strikingly modern.

"When we looked at the foundations they were badly weathered, with the metal ties in the brick walls corroding," Peter says. "It's painful to replace all that, so we decided to take the wall back and rebuild with the proper stainless steel ties against a steel wall rather than a brick wall. That allowed it to be cost effective."



A The rear of the back storey terrace
B The kitchen leads on to the garden
C Bifolds create an airy atmosphere

Add some Accent value to your home



Accent's Roman Blinds are made using the best fabrics and components available. Ask about our Wills & Esport style, where no middle holes can be seen.



Our Design Shades are manufactured using the highest quality with unique designs and styles. This range offers innovative concepts, with self-lubed draw.



With an extensive awning range, we have the design and style to suit your outdoor living space.



For a limited time only, the Madeline Fabric is on special at Accent Blinds now. Ask one of our friendly Sales Staff for a range of colours and fabrics.

Accent

Call us for a free quote or visit our website to find your nearest showroom

Not in conjunction with any other offer. On selected ranges only. 2021

13 19 13
accentblinds.com.au