

renovation *before & after*



# EXPERT BLEND

An article in **HOME** made Paul and Christina Holly pick Australian Renovation Group to undertake the changes they had in mind. And ARG showed they were up to the challenge

**P**AUL and Christina Holly's renovation of their 1940s Californian bungalow in Floreat has been getting lots of praise. With its beautiful leadlights in the front door, windows and internal sliding doors, it was a house they both knew they could renovate with great success.

The first stage of their plan was to add an ensuite and walk-in robe to the master bedroom. This was completed before the full renovation.

After their daughter Jasmine was born, an extension was a priority.

"We didn't realise how small the original house was," Christina says.

"When you're working you don't really notice, but as Jasmine started growing up and more time was spent at home, we decided to make the renovation a priority."

The original house had two bedrooms, a front lounge, a three-entry kitchen and a sleep-out tacked on the back.

Paul and Christina aimed to double the living space and create a renovation that blended the character of the existing house with a modern feel.

While deciding on who was going to take on the job, they saw in **HOME** that Australian Renovation Group had won a Housing Excellence Award in the price range they wanted.

"They won it for a house in City Beach, and we liked the idea of a smaller firm that would be accountable," Paul says.

Adds Christina: "We had names of various companies from friends, but we were so impressed with ARG that we didn't look any further."

The focal point of the renovation is a soaring raked ceiling in the open-plan living area.

The ceiling matches the height and pitch of the new alfresco.

The old kitchen was removed – in its place is an impressive hallway and entrance to the new section.

An archway between the lounge and dining room was bricked in, creating a formal lounge and additional bedroom.

"We wanted high ceilings and plenty of natural light," Paul says.

"We also wanted an alfresco area, and that's all we said – the ARG designer came up with the rest of the plan, and we were very impressed with his ideas."

Also added during the renovation was an activity room to accommodate Jasmine's toys, a laundry with lots of storage space and a bigger carport.

The new kitchen has a long bench topped in CaesarStone with double sinks.

The bench's apron ends and breakfast bar facing the dining room make it perfect for casual meals and entertaining.

The renovation even gels with the "church" in the back yard.

"The people who had the house before us used to teach music in this big steeped building in the back yard which everyone calls the church," says Christina.

"We were worried the renovation would clash with the church, but the high ceilings and angles are a good match."

In fact it's hard to see where the old stops and the new begins. Even the new jarrah floorboards have been expertly matched with the existing wood.

The Hollys were promised the work would take eight months – and the promise was kept.

They were able to keep an eye on the renovation as they house-sat across the road.

"ARG were fantastic – our supervisor Rod would walk across the road to ask me things and kept us informed all the way," Christina says.

David Cohen



## GET THE LOOK

- \* **Builder:** Australian Renovation Group, phone: 9355 1744
- \* **Kitchen splashback:** Britone Aluminium & Glazing, phone: 9409 2040
- \* **Benchtops:** The Laminex Group Osborne Park, phone: 9446 7622
- \* **Tiles:** Crosby Tiles, phone: 9446 6000
- \* **French doors:** Jason Windows, phone: 9251 3400; and M & B Quality Building Products, phone: 9272 2555
- \* **Kitchen sink:** Rick Hart Osborne Park, phone: 9442 7400

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Christina and Paul Holly with daughter Jasmine at their renovated home in Floreat.

Pictures: Alf Sorbello and supplied