

Happy pair go with the flow

■ Tamara Hunter

After years putting up with the odd placing of their bathroom and the inconvenience of a tiny, unimproved kitchen which doubled as a thoroughfare, the owners of this partly updated 1920s house decided it was time to act.

“At the start, we were just going to do the kitchen,” owner Kim Richardson said.

“We had always thought it would be nice to do a bit of the house because the bathroom being in the middle of the house was just disastrous. But you know what it’s like, you put up with it. You have got young kids, you don’t have the money.”

When the kitchen oven finally packed in, Kim and husband Paul spoke to a real-estate agent friend about how to make improvements which also would work well for the home’s resale value.

He told them if they were going to do anything, they should make sure they fixed the bathroom problem.

The home had previously been extended, with a main suite and lounge area topped by a raking ceiling added to the rear of the house.

But with the old bathroom parked at the end of the entry hall, right in the middle of the house, any traffic to the back of the house was forced to divert through the poky kitchen.

The couple called in the Australian Renovation Group, which drew up plans to move both the kitchen and bathroom and open up the central hall to create a straight line of sight through the house.

The couple also decided to add a carport and a second storey with a parents’ retreat made up of a large bedroom, an ensuite, a large walk-in robe, a study, a sitting room with a kitchenette, and a balcony with city views.

The space vacated by the old kitchen was filled with a jarrah staircase leading to the retreat. An existing smaller bedroom was refurbished as a new bathroom.

A gleaming new kitchen, cleverly designed to maximise a relatively narrow space, was created in the old study area.

The home’s many existing character features, which the couple loved, were replicated or recycled into the new areas, including leadlight windows, Federation-era subway and tessellated tiles, and solid jarrah floors and architraves.



The owners are very happy with their revamped home.

Australian Renovation Group designer Robert Mazzilli said the company made sure to match details such as the architraves and high skirting boards.

Mrs Richardson said the family loved the home’s new flow and rejuvenated appearance, which incorporated the warmth of wood and reminded them of their previous life in the country.

“I would think that people who knew us before we did the renovations would think the house really hasn’t changed a lot — we have got the second storey but the configuration works so much better for us.”

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