

• space invader •

TOTAL WORKS
\$300,800*
including labour & materials

After exploring a multitude of renovation options, a Melbourne family decided all they really needed was one big room

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*SOME COSTS ARE BASED ON OWNERS' ESTIMATES AND WILL VARY.



"The whole family lives in this room now, this is where it all happens" - Megan



IT TOOK YEARS for Megan and her husband Nick to decide how to stretch their bungalow's petite proportions. "We looked into reworking the existing floor plan, adding a second storey, and even considered whether it would be better to demolish and start from scratch!" says Megan. Eventually they decided to extend outwards, delivering a spacious living zone that opens onto a deck for an indoor-outdoor feel.

Original property: 1920s Melbourne bungalow.
Time frame: Four months.

Why the reno? "I loved the facade and character of the original house but it was too enclosed and boxy, which wasn't ideal with three young children," explains Megan.

The works: With the help of interior architect Anne-Marie Rush, one long room was created, encompassing an open-plan kitchen, living and dining area. Elsewhere, the original layout was reconfigured to allow for larger bedrooms.

Major changes: Dated finishes and fixtures were upgraded with a fresh neutral palette. Dropped ceiling heights and bulkheads define zones, while a wall of stacking glass doors provides a seamless connection to the deck and allows abundant natural light into the house.

Favourite aspects of the redesign: "It was a tough decision to sacrifice such a large chunk of the backyard for the extension, but it gave us the northern orientation we were after and it really has made the most of the block," says Megan. "And our remaining strip of lawn is just perfect for backyard cricket and Slip 'n Slide!"

Lessons learned: "If you have young children, when planning your renovation budget for furniture, select finishes which are durable and will stand the test of time," says Megan.

library wall (above) A row of bookshelves keeps favourite items within reach and allows functional surfaces to remain streamlined and clutter free. "Rather than art, it's nice to have a wall filled with books, movies and photos that reflect our interests," says Megan. "When people visit, they browse the shelves and often leave with a book or two."

October – November 2011

The old weatherboard lean-to is demolished and the concrete slab for the new extension poured. The timber framing commences and the roof is installed. Windows are measured and installation starts. Plumbing and electrics are roughed-in. The airconditioning ducts are installed in the roof space.

November – December 2011

The installation of the windows is completed and the external cladding commences. Plasterboarding is installed and the new rooms begin to take shape. The cabinetmaker takes site measurements and the manufacture of joinery begins off-site.

January – February 2012

Painting commences. The new kitchen, pantry, study and bookshelf joinery is installed and the final fit-off of the plumbing, lighting and electrical appliances is completed. The stone benchtops for the island are measured and manufactured, and new timber floorboards are fitted in the living space.

materials To help blend indoor and outdoor spaces, interior architect Anne-Marie continued the external stringybark timber cladding inside to create a feature wall behind the television. "It helped introduce another textural element while also adding warmth to the crisp white interior palette," she explains.



living room The new living space stars furniture with smooth curves, such as a round coffee table and a Patricia Urquiola designed 'Smock' chair in Chartreuse from Hub. To suit the scale and tones of the Jordan 'Empire' sofa, a square of carpet was cut to size and hemmed in leather by Rugs Carpet & Design. "With so much timber both inside and out, it's nice to have a bit of carpet in the room," Anne-Marie says. The Jetmaster fireplace boasts a floating bluestone clad ledge. >

DECKING
For similar, try spotted gum timber, from \$6.40/lineal metre, Chippy's Outdoor.

EXPERTS' VIEW

Seamless design

The challenge with any extension is to create a flow between the old and new parts of a home, and make them feel as one. "This home's single-storey extension is largely invisible from the street – it retains the scale of the modest cottage but also provides the additional spaces needed," explains interior architect Anne-Marie Rush.



BEFORE

dining The dimensions and placement of specific pieces of furniture, such as the Lowe Furniture dining table paired with Moroso 'Fjord H' chairs, all from Hub, were considered during planning to ensure the scale was right. Moooi 'Non Random' pendants from Space define the dining area, while American oak timber floorboards reflect the look and feel of the home's original flooring.

FLOORBOARDS

American oak floorboards in Mink Grey, \$13.50/sqm, Royal Oak Floors.



SPLASHBACK

Try 6mm toughened glass in Dulux Antique White USA, \$385/sqm, Ultimate Glass Splashbacks.

"The kids sit at the island bench and chat and do their homework while I cook" - Megan, homeowner



kitchen (opposite, above right & below left) Megan's number one goal for the kitchen was to keep surfaces streamlined so it felt like an extension of the living area. "Although it looks minimalist it's incredibly functional," she says. The handle-free 2-pac cabinetry is finished in Dulux Antique White USA, with the bi-fold cabinets above the bench fitted with a handy Blum 'Aventos HF' lift-system. A Delta Light 'Headliner' pendant from Inlite provides task lighting along the length of the Create Stone island bench, while Viccarbe 'Last Minute' stools from Hub add a graphic touch. In the butler's pantry (above left), "There's enough bench space for all our small appliances," says Megan. "I also have a pinboard in there where I do all my organising." >

Kitchen

BUDGET BREAKDOWN
 Appliances: Smeg freestanding oven, Miele dishwasher, \$12,000.
 Benchtops: Quartz-based 'Saraiba' benchtop, from \$218.90/sqm, Create Stone.
 Cabinetry: Kitchen and pantry joinery, incorporating Blum fittings, \$20,000, Contour Cabinets.
 Fireplace: Jetmaster, \$5000. Flooring: American oak floorboards in Mink Grey, \$93.50/sqm, Royal Oak Floors.
 Splashback: Try 6mm Starphire toughened glass in Dulux Antique White USA, \$385/sqm, Ultimate Glass Splashbacks.

Living & dining

Flooring: American oak floorboards in Mink Grey, \$93.50/sqm, Royal Oak Floors. Joinery: Bookcase and fireplace surround, \$12,000, Contour Cabinets. Lighting: Moooi pendants, Space, Delta Light 'Headliner' pendant light, Inlite, \$4000. Rug: Custom-made rug, Rugs Carpet & Design, \$1800.



"The open layout is perfect for parties and watching the kids play outside" - Megan, homeowner

deck One of the major aims of the renovation was to open up the home to draw in more natural light. "The original bungalow was quite enclosed, so we really wanted to reorientate the home's focus outwards," says Megan. A wall of stacking glass doors now opens out to the new spotted gum deck. "It was important to use as few panels as possible for the glass doors, as we wanted to minimise vertical lines," explains Megan. "It's just lovely on a warm day, as you can open the back of the house right up and get great airflow."



BEFORE

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Deck

Decking: Spotted gum timber, \$31,000.
 Doors: Custom stacker doors, All Weather Aluminium Windows, \$10,000.
 Outdoor furniture: For similar, try 'Lennox' dining table, \$1799, 'Lennox' bench seats, \$999 each, Eco Outdoor.

PLANS

Before



After



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