



WOVEN CANE PENDANT LIGHTS FROM KOSKELA AND A LOBSTER POT ADD NATURAL AUSTRALIAN WARMTH TO THE NEW LIVING AREA. A WALL LINT THAT STRETCHES TO THE KITCHEN END OF THE ROOM HIDES PERSONAL ITEMS, TELEVISION, KITCHENWARE AND EVEN INTEGRATED APPLIANCES, INCLUDING THE DISHWASHER AND FRIDGE. DETAILS, LAST PAGES

high commission

Joining forces to deconstruct a traditional terrace, two designers played with proportions to provide maximum impact.

PHOTOGRAPHER: ANDREW SMART WRITER: KERRYN RAMSEY



The architect CHANGED
THE SCALE of the house by
creating a LOFTY DOUBLE-
HEIGHT VOID in the centre



GLENDIA BARNES CALLS THE HALLWAY, **OPPOSITE**, "THE GALLERY", AS THE LIGHT CHANGES, SO DOES THE STRUCTURED PATTERN ON THE WALL, JUST LIKE AN EBB-AND-FLOW ARTWORK. THE STAIRCASE IS A LAYERED SPACE THAT FOLDS UP TO THE FIRST-FLOOR STUDY THAT OVERLOOKS THE OPEN-PLAN LIVING AREA, **BELOW**. THE FORMER COMPACT KITCHEN AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE, **ABOVE**, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO ANOTHER GALLEY ZONE, IMPROVING SOCIAL DYNAMICS.

TRUE TO FORM, as an interior designer, Glenda Barnes extols the virtues of open space when remodelling a house. However, her industry mantra became more of a challenge when she revamped her own Victorian-style home, transforming its five metre-wide living space into a spacious, light-filled entertaining hub.

Timidity was not in the brief for Barnes, who decided to project manage the extensive renovation over five months. "I was definitely cracking the whip," says this well-respected designer who signed up architect John Andreas to deconstruct the 1880s single-storey abode in Sydney.

Instead of building a predictable second storey, Andreas changed the scale of the house by creating a lofty double-height void in the centre. The addition integrates itself into the existing structure and cannot be seen from the street. This heightens the drama of entering through the front of the house into the new addition.

Acknowledged as "the pivotal feature" of the house, the living area merges with the kitchen and dining zones. The width of this area was extended by a full metre with bi-fold doors to the north and west that blur the boundary between inside and out.

"It's part of the 'opening up' of the space, making it feel light, bright and glassy," Barnes explains.





B+A

Aim of renovation Size limitations had to be addressed in this 210sqm property. I wanted two extra bedrooms, and a versatile space that integrates the indoor with the out.

The solution The double-height void floods the space with light, and we pushed the living room wall out an extra metre. Here, the furnishings can create different zones. Upstairs, two new bedrooms have a sense of privacy, while a home office overlooks the living room.

How long did it take?
Five months.

Which aspects are you happiest with? The skylight and double-volume living space; the way it folds up to the upper level.

Any tips for those doing a similar renovation? Remember that you're designing a house for the way you live. If you don't entertain formally, why would you have a formal dining room in your home?

Materials used? Western red cedar on window and door frames, blackbutt flooring, recycled blackbutt benches, recycled bluegum desktop and shelving upstairs, and marble and limestone for bathrooms.

Designer
Glenda Barnes Design
Level 1, Imperial Slacks Building, 91 Campbell Street, Surry Hills NSW, (02) 9211 2996.

Architect
John Andreas
Unit 112/4 Alexandra Drive, Camperdown NSW, 0422 376 169.

Suppliers
Furniture: Koskela
Level 1, Imperial Slacks Building, 91 Campbell Street, Surry Hills NSW, (02) 9280 0999.

Carpentry: DMW
Carpentry Services
Redfern NSW, 0421 282 089.

Recycled timbers: Australian
Architectural Hardwoods
Kempsey NSW, (02) 6562 2788.

BEFORE

AFTER



lower floor (upper floor not shown)

● The entire rear of the house was rebuilt.



BEFORE



BEFORE



*"Even in a tight space, it's possible
to create a lovely INTERACTION
BETWEEN INDOORS AND OUT"*

"YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN A LITTLE TREE HOUSE," SAYS BARNES, REFERRING TO THE TRANQUIL MASTER BEDROOM, ABOVE, WHICH INCORPORATES A BALCONY FOR EXTRA PRIVACY. IN THE GALLEY KITCHEN DIRECTLY BELOW THE BEDROOM, OPPOSITE TOP LEFT, A MIRROR SPLASHBACK CREATES THE CLEVER ILLUSION OF SPACE, WHILE AN EIGHT METRE-LONG JOINERY UNIT PREVENTS THE HOME'S PREVIOUS CLUTTER, OPPOSITE, FROM REOCCURRING. DETAILS, LAST PAGES.

While this space provides a voluminous effect, other architectural elements sneak up gradually. Andrea's device of folding up layers is exemplified in the staircase, which works as a sculptural wraparound. Clever demarcation is introduced in the intermediate level, with a bedroom positioned behind the home office at one end, and the master bedroom with ensuite and shaded balcony at the other. "The main bedroom is incredibly private," says Barnes.

Between these two tranquil camps is another gesture of the grandiose – a prominent 15 metre-long skylight in both the ensuite and the generous hallway. "It creates a structured pattern of light that tracks the different light quality and moods of the day," explains Andrea.

Working through all these complex specifications was a breeze for Barnes and Andrea who have worked together on numerous inner-city projects. "It's our like-minded thinking that made the project run so smoothly," says Barnes. Throughout the project, endless conversations provided the key element to this renovation – embracing the Australian way of living.

"My intention with the finishes and furnishings was to make it feel as Australian as I possibly could – Australian designed and Australian made," she notes. "That's why we chose the use of natural timber."

Following this local theme, Barnes turned to furniture designer Russel Koskela, with whom she shares her office space. He introduced natural furnishings that range from woven cane pendant lights to the solid timber 'Patonga' dining table.

Eschewing any jingoistic elements, Barnes hung tightly to her urban sensibility, giving the home a contemporary edge. "Even in a tight space, it's possible to create a lovely interaction between indoors and out," she asserts. "And that's the key to the Australian way of living." VL