



OUTER LIMITS


A Brisbane couple modernise the classic Queenslander, creating a home which celebrates open spaces, international influence and impressive art

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EXTERIOR {[opposite](#)} This stunning Queenslander, home to David Schneidewin and his wife Trudy Naylor, is a study in simplicity and elegance, but it wasn't all smooth sailing. When the house painter arrived to work on the exterior and discovered the proposed colour palette, he "thought we were quite mad," remembers David. "I think he agreed that it worked in the end. We love the contrast between the old part of the house – all in white – and the bold new part, all in charcoal, red, zinc and glass. It emphasises the juxtaposition between the two parts of the building." They used Wattyl Fire Engine Red and Dulux Vivid White. Inside, {[this page](#)} an abstract artwork, *From Where I Stand III* by Yvonne Mills-Stanley, sits above a black vase from Space and a leaf sculpture from Coco Republic, on a low console from King Furniture. >





Searching for an authentic Queenslanders wasn't a difficult quest for Brisbane couple David Schneidewin and Trudy Naylor. In fact, they fell in love with a house just around the corner from their home in Brisbane's Hawthorne. The only catch? There was no 'for sale' sign on the white wooden fence. "We'd renovated our small Queenslanders and were ready to look for something on a larger scale," explains David, a barrister. When he and Trudy, a solicitor, were tipped off by a local agent that the house was coming on the market, they couldn't believe their luck. "The owner was an older lady who had been brought up there," says David. "She eventually agreed to sell the house to us because she didn't want the property to be carved up by developers. We were lucky to get it when we did."

With a grand vision of converting the 900-square-metre block into a gracious home with a modern extension that embraced an indoor-outdoor lifestyle, the couple lived in the house for four years before the jackhammer arrived. "It hadn't changed since the 1930s," says David, "so we treated the house as a blank canvas."

With rotting timber, a tiny bathroom, a toilet on the back landing, no built-in wardrobes and a dark kitchen, the house needed a lot of love and understanding. David and Trudy turned to architect Danny Fox, who'd worked on the couple's previous house. "About 50 per cent of my work is remodelling Queenslanders," says the Brisbane architect, who was keen to introduce a modern twist to the traditional dwelling, using environmentally aware devices to improve the home's ventilation. >



KITCHEN {opposite} CaesarStone benchtops in Snow and cherry timber veneer are anchored by polished concrete flooring with white and fawn aggregate from Boral. "It goes well with the style of the house," says David. "Queenslanders often have terrazzo floors in the kitchen and bathrooms, so the polished concrete carries that theme through in a more modern way." Trudy collects pieces by artist David Bromley, including the painting on the wall entitled *Cassie*, bought from Jan Murphy Gallery last year. Above the bench are Vistosi 'Damasco P' pendant lights in blown crystal – "they are one of our favourite things in the kitchen" – all from Lumen 8; visit www.lumen-8.com.au to see more.

LIVING AREA {top right} With floor-to-ceiling sliding doors, the living room opens out to the entertaining area. "Living here for four years before renovating gave us a sense of where the breezes came from and how to make this area liveable," says David. Mirroring the adjacent kitchen bench, the built-in wall unit is also topped in CaesarStone in Snow. This handy storage and audio-visual unit underpins a striking artwork by Peter Churcher, *Augustin Seated* (2007) from his Barcelona series, which David purchased from Philip Bacon Galleries. "Peter's treatment of the human form is brilliant."





< “In the extension, I made sure the main doors and windows were facing north, and that the walls on the west had only small openings,” says Danny. “I also added louvres, which enhance energy efficiency by controlling heat and light.”

The dramatic angular addition at the back of the house is now connected to the original area by a narrow corridor. “I call it a glass lantern,” says Danny. “When you’re inside, you don’t notice that separation.”

To make the most of the balmy Queensland climate, the kitchen and living room now spill out onto a roomy entertaining area, shaded by an almost-floating bank of louvres and an impressive Moreton Bay fig tree. The kitchen is set up to service almost any occasion, with a six-burner cooktop and oven, both from Ilve, and a refrigerator from Maytag. “Recently, we had a standing degustation dinner for 14 people,” says David. “Trudy whipped up six courses while everyone mingled and drank wine. We could all chat and pitch in while Trudy worked her magic.”

While the couple originally chose the home for its Art Deco details, the revitalised Queenslander now blends modern aesthetics and eco-friendly solutions with understated elegance. “We love [TV show] *Sex & the City*,” says Trudy with a laugh, “and David was initially drawn to the decor in Mr Big’s apartment – stylish and minimalist – but it was too masculine and barren for my taste. I preferred a richer feel. There was a lot of compromise, but we settled on something we’re both happy with.”



MASTER BEDROOM {**opposite & top left**} For design inspiration, the couple visited intimate boutiques and mind-blowing showrooms in New York and Europe during a recent holiday. “We ended up with a bedroom that was more dense, moody and less minimalist than initially intended, but still quite bold with some sharp edges,” says Trudy. Touches of chrome and black glossy surfaces, a curvaceous timber bed and a collection of black-and-white photographs of Manhattan evoke Art Deco style. After flicking through numerous wallpaper books to find a feature wall, the couple spotted this shiny black wallpaper with a flocced pattern from New Zealand’s Vision Wallcoverings; email info@visionwalls.co.nz to find a stockist.

GUEST BATHROOM {**left**} A large mirror and clear shower screen make the compact guest’s bathroom appear more spacious, while accessories, such as an MOR candle from Kova and Missoni towels from Ollie & Lloyd, add character. The white basin is set in a CaesarStone benchtop in Gunpowder, and complements the rectangular Riverbed mosaic tiles from Amber Tiles. Every room in this house is a potential gallery space – here, an artwork by an unknown artist adds some visual interest. >





SWIMMING POOL {left} "As well as being a functional pool, it doubles as a water feature for the centre of the house," Trudy says. Eco-friendly water solutions were also utilised. "Due to the drought, we installed a number of tanks for the garden, and diverted a down pipe to keep the swimming pool topped up," says David.

LIBRARY {below} As a gift to Trudy when she became a partner at her law firm, David bought *Memory Lane* (2005) by David Bromley from Jan Murphy Gallery in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane; call (07) 3254 1855. A wingback chair from David Met Nicole, covered in pin-striped fabric and suede, completes the reading corner; call (02) 9698 7416.



Inside story

Who lives here? Barrister David Schneidewin and his wife, solicitor Trudy Naylor.

What gives the house character?

David: "The juxtaposition between old and new, which [architect] Danny blended seamlessly where it was required and with boldness and drama where it counted."

What do you think are the qualities of a good architect? "A total willingness to work with you on the design of the house. Danny was interested in our ideas, and he fixed up any deficiencies we couldn't solve.

We saw everything eye to eye."

Any advice when collecting art?

"Try to avoid buying art that serves only a decorative purpose if you want to establish a good collection. Go to independent galleries and don't be afraid to ask the dealers questions about their artists. Read art periodicals to keep on top of who is emerging and look for artists who are really edgy. You still have to live with it on your walls, so a paramount consideration should be that you love it."

Favourite aspect of the kitchen? Trudy: "The centre bench, our main hub for entertaining."

Most precious possessions? David: "Our photos, our goldfish Rufus, our artwork, books and Trudy's shoes."

Favourite Brisbane dining spots?

David: "We love Liquorish and David's Off Oxford just down the street in Bulimba, and Bar Alto at the Powerhouse in New Farm. We often have weekend brunch at Depot in the Emporium in Fortitude Valley, and check out the art galleries afterwards."



KITCHEN (left) Timeless CaesarStone benchtops in Snow are glossy and easy to clean; visit www.caesarstone.com.au. Polished concrete flooring with white and fawn aggregate adds textural interest but is smooth underfoot; www.boral.com.au.

MASTER BEDROOM (right) A strong black-and-white theme in this room continues with contrasting lamps – the black lamp is from Ralph Lauren’s Modern Metropolis range (see David Jones for more; call 133 357).

TILES (below right) For continuity inside and out, architect Danny Fox chose the Riverbed mosaics from Amber Tiles for the guest bathroom and the outdoor shower; visit www.ambertiles.com.au.



we love ...
 clever storage solutions >
 Trudy and David looked to furniture that works extra hard to keep their sleek home clutter-free. In the living room, this handsome Jasper sofa from King Furniture proved irresistible. The modular sofa (from \$3590) cleverly integrates display units – great for everything from lamps and books to DVDs and collections of your personal treasures. Call King Furniture on 1300 546 438 or visit www.kingfurniture.com.au.

Call architect Danny Fox on (07) 3211 7183 or email danfox@optusnet.com.au.



ILLUSTRATION WWW.KENZIEDESIGN.COM

