

Jewellery box

A modest extension to a suburban 1950s weatherboard maximises natural light and air for a tranquil retreat in a classic setting.

WORDS Emma Scragg

PHOTOGRAPHY Jon Linkins

LIGHT, LIGHT AND MORE LIGHT WAS

the brief for a new parents' retreat for Louisa and Martin in their 1954 low-set timber home in Brisbane. Having lived in the house for eight years and carried out their own minor, necessary renovations for the growing family of five, an extra bedroom and bathroom was finally needed. In contrast to the dark, inward-focused house, they wanted the new spaces to be filled with natural daylight and fresh air.

Green thumb Louisa had already transformed the backyard by removing heat-reflecting paving and establishing dense plantings of natives between deciduous 60-year-old frangipanis and a pecan, to encourage bird life. Reddog Architects created the missing connection between the house and garden. Sliding glass doors were added to the existing rear rumpus and the new wing above

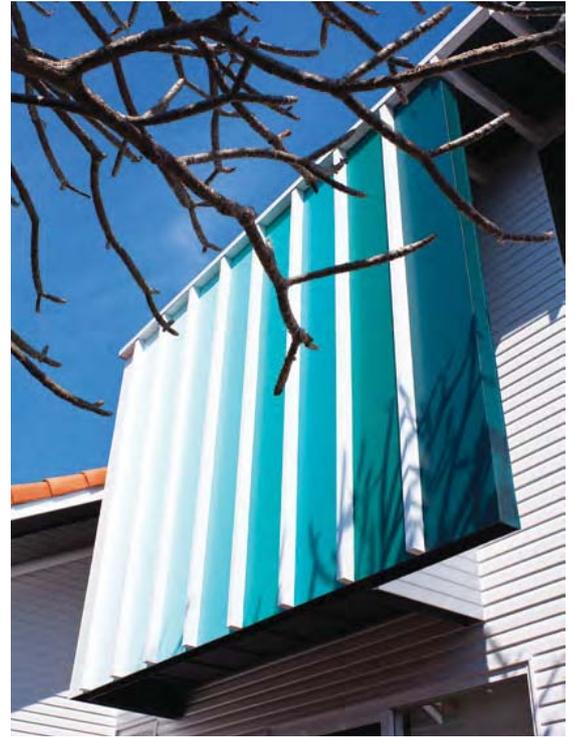
opens into the canopy to cool incoming breezes, compensating for the south-west orientation.

The owners were keen to leave the existing house undisturbed. The new bedroom, walk-in-robe, ensuite and office sit over the rumpus room at the top of a long plywood stair, which also serves as a thermal chimney and lightwell. The ground floor footprint remained unchanged, but the ceiling of the rumpus room was raised for more natural daylight.

Beneath the new raking ceilings of the upper level, clerestory windows let in warm northern winter sun and abundant daylight the rest of the year. Most other windows are louvres to optimise cross-ventilation, carefully placed and glazed to provide privacy without the need for blinds.

Architects Paul Worroll and Emma Healy didn't want to add air-conditioning –





Materials were kept simple, in line with the home's original 50s aesthetic; its original terracotta-tiled roof is offset with sun-shading fins in graduated shades of teal and blue beneath. "The exterior was perceived as a jewellery box", Paul says, "with a humble exterior palette but a more luxurious, contemporary experience inside".



The ensuite is the only room with full-height internal walls. All other partitions and the two large sliding doors stop short of the ceiling to maximise airflow between the spaces. Ceiling fans provide additional cooling circulation on still or the hottest days.



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LEGEND

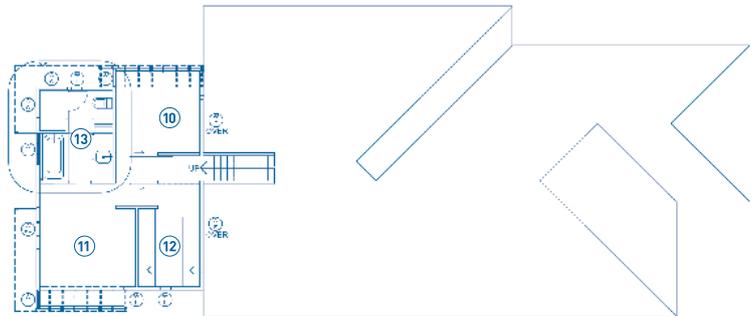
- ① Existing bedrooms
- ② New bedroom
- ③ Existing kitchen
- ④ Existing living
- ⑤ Existing dining
- ⑥ Existing study
- ⑦ Existing bathroom
- ⑧ Existing rumpus
- ⑨ Terrace
- ⑩ New study
- ⑪ Master bedroom
- ⑫ WIR
- ⑬ Ensuite

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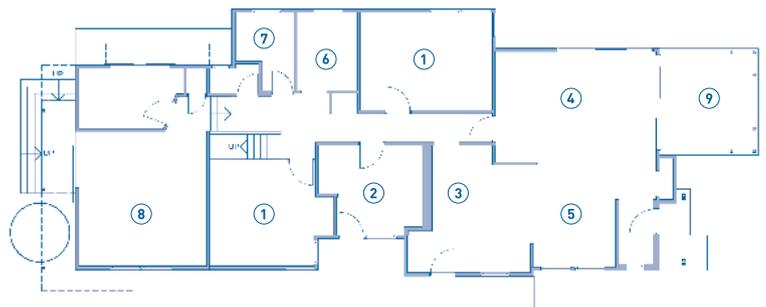
Materials were kept simple, in line with the home’s original 50s aesthetic; its original terracotta-tiled roof is offset with sun-shading fins in graduated shades of teal and blue beneath. “The last thing I wanted was a really stark contrast to the rest of the house, but then I didn’t want to spend all that money and have it look just the same either”, says Louisa. The tranquil colour palette is extended indoors, to the sliding doors and a stripe of bathroom tiles.

Its occupants are delighted with the result. “Paul really won me over,” says Louisa. “He came up with something different that was still going to be practical and I didn’t have to change any of the existing house, and I love the light.”

UPPER FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



Jewellery box

—Specifications

Credits

DESIGN

Reddog Architects – Paul Worroll & Emma Healy

PROJECT TYPE

Extension & renovation of existing house

PROJECT LOCATION

Holland Park, Queensland

COST

\$220,000

SIZE

Extension 50 sqm
Existing house 172 sqm

BUILDING STAR RATING

6 Stars

Sustainable Features

HOT WATER

– Existing roof-mounted solar hot water system.

WATER SAVING

– Existing 10,000L rainwater tank collects water from roof for garden use
– WELS 4 star Reece Porcher Cygnet BTW Square toilet suite.

PASSIVE DESIGN

– No air-conditioning
– Custom external sun-shading blades to windows
– Louvres located for good cross-ventilation
– Internal walls not full height to maximise airflow and light between spaces
– Centor A6 sliding doors in ‘satin chrome’ to open spaces up and aid airflow.

ACTIVE HEATING & COOLING

– White Lucci Air Futura ceiling fans in bedroom and study.

BUILDING MATERIALS

– Plantation FSC hoop pine plywood from Austral Plywood used for walls, floors, stairs, skirting boards, joinery and balustrade



A base palette of light-coloured plywood and warm white was complemented by soaring skylights, geometric ceiling forms which reflect and refract the light. The colour palette was a crucial factor in achieving the owner’s brief for tranquil private retreat within the family home, says architect Paul Worroll.

– Weatherboards, terracotta tiles, timber wall structure and floor framing from original house re-used
– Insulation: R1.5 Bradford Gold Glasswool partition batts to walls; R1.5 CSR Bradford Fibretex Rockwool Floor Batt; CSR Bradford Enviroseal Roof Sarking; R2.5 Bradford Glasswool Ceiling Batt
– Secondhand CSR terracotta roof tiles to match originals as required
– Stramit 150mm Flat-Back Gutter in Colorbond ‘Surfmist’ to eaves.

WINDOWS & GLAZING

– AWS Vantage aluminium sliding windows (powdercoated)
– Breezeway Altair aluminium louvres (powdercoated).

LIGHTING

– LEDs and compact fluorescent lights from Lumen-8 used throughout
– Skylights and high-level glazing minimise need for lights.

PAINTS, FINISHES & FLOOR COVERINGS

– Intergrain Enviropro Endure 1 Pack in matt to internal joinery and skirting
– Intergrain NaturalStain to timber decking and stair treads
– Existing polished timber floor.

