

RENOVATE



REIMAGINING HISTORY

This old Cottesloe cottage has been respectfully renovated and extended to meet modern lifestyle requirements, while still retaining its original character

FAST FACTS

- * A two-level extension was added to the rear of the previously cramped character cottage in Cottesloe.
- * Lowering the floors of the addition enabled the new building work to be concealed from street view.
- * Solar panels, quality insulation and louvred windows are some of the sustainable features that have boosted the home's energy efficiency.

get the look

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JADE JUREWICZ

TO renovate or not to renovate? That is the question many homeowners ask themselves when they're at a crossroads with their dated digs.

Architect Neil Cownie is used to counselling clients who've had to make this tough choice. In fact, he often helps them strike a balance between style, budget, location and history before work starts on each project at hand, making problem-solver an important part of his chosen career path.

So when Nick and Rochelle, the owners of this once-humble Cottesloe cottage, contacted Neil to help them in their quest to create more space inside their cramped living quarters, he was certain the demolition versus renovation debate would arise.

The dilapidated timber-framed house had seen better days, but Neil could see its enduring character shining through.

"We felt it was important to maintain the streetscape, character, scale and history set by the existing building," he says.

"We wanted to provide an addition that visually complemented but did not dwarf the cottage."

Cue the decision to add a two-level extension to the rear of the home and somehow conceal it from street view.

"The new building was articulated at the first floor to visually separate the new from the old," Neil says.

"The roof form to the new building complements the existing building while standing alone."

Neil took inspiration from the materials and style of the original residence, and re-created a quintessential beach-shack style in the new construction work by using white cladding, as well as introducing a contemporary rendered wall.

A light and bright colour palette breezes through both the old and the new wings. Timber flooring, relaxed furnishings and pops of colour add warmth to the design scheme.

The original cottage has been reconfigured and now contains a guest bedroom with its own ensuite, a study and a gym.

A kitchen, three bedrooms, major living areas and a garage all have been incorporated in the new build.

Neil says the owners' request for an "environmentally responsible" abode was a key consideration when he designed the renovation. To increase its "green" credentials, he insulated the underside of the floor, as well as the walls and ceiling in the cottage.

The new timber-framed addition has an external wall insulation wrap, fibre insulation between the studwork and plasterboard-backed rigid insulated board as internal stud lining on the external walls.

Louvre windows have been used throughout to create cross-ventilation.

"Planning of the complete house, new and old, provided versatility in room use and allowed future-proofing so that it's relevant for the now young family and through the years to come," Neil says.





PICTURES: ROB FRITH, ACORN PHOTO



Preserve the past while planning for the future was the design brief that underpinned this impressive Cottesloe renovation, and owner Rochelle, pictured, couldn't be happier.

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