

soul

After six years, with the original single-storey semi bursting at the seams, Ezer revisited her original plans, amended them with the council and took the plunge.

An old laundry had been situated at the back and its low ceiling captured all the northern sun. The kitchen was tucked into the eastern back corner and it had no connection to the living area, which was always dark.

"The kids never played outside because

'A large laundry was important as I wanted to be able to accommodate sports equipment.'

Jacquie Ezer

there was no link to the living space and we couldn't keep an eye on them from the kitchen," Ezer says.

The renovation involved gutting the back of the house and constructing an upper level for bedrooms and bathrooms.

Downstairs, the former main bedroom was converted into Ezer's office and the second bedroom was divided into a guest bathroom and a spacious laundry. "Having a large laundry was important as I wanted to be able to accommodate hobby gear and sports equipment in there," she says.

Storage was a priority and I tried to

utilise every single centimetre. The piece de resistance in the laundry is what Ezer laughingly refers to as Styles's "shed". A metre-wide cupboard with 180-degree hinged doors, it features a nifty pull-out workbench plus space for tools.

Continuing down the hall, the staircase leading to the new upper level can be seen neatly tucked to one side of the kitchen-dining zone.

"It was important that it not intrude upon the living space and that you be able to look through it," Ezer says.

The living area culminates in bifold doors that completely open the room on to a tiny paved courtyard where Sacha, 8, and Max, 4, enjoy playing.

To soften the courtyard's masonry walls, clumping bamboo was planted around its perimeter within a narrow bed.

For a semi, the house is surprisingly light-filled. Highlight windows in the kitchen, dining and living area bring in ambient light. The main bedroom faces the back and contains a bay window with a large window seat incorporating storage space underneath. Externally, this bump-out is clad in mini orb and its overhang provides cover for a section of the courtyard below.

"We are very happy with the result of the renovation; it has transformed our lives," Ezer says.



Safe space ... bifold doors open on to a courtyard where Sacha, 8, and Max, 4, can play.

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AIM
To open up the back of the house, maximise the northern aspect, bring light into the living space and create an outdoor area where children can play.

HOW LONG
Eight months.

FAVOURITE FEATURE
The main bedroom's window seat. It functions like a second living space for Garrath and me.

COST
\$500,000.

INSIDER'S TIP
Spend time and money on the details, especially for a semi. It's one part of the renovation that you will really enjoy at the end.

GREEN POINTS
■ The back overhang allows the winter sun to warm the living area but it prevents the higher-angled summer sun from penetrating.
■ Cross ventilation to front and back bedrooms and living spaces.
■ LED lighting for stairs and exterior reduces power consumption.

BUILDER
Allandra Building Services, 0418 221 720.

ARCHITECT
Ezer Styles 9389 0805; 0412 088 983.



Different strokes ... Garrath Styles's wall art complements the colour scheme; (below) a bay window in the main bedroom.



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