



Spring Clean

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PHOTOGRAPHY John Downs

This inviting home in Brisbane's east is the picture of serene contentedness but had you taken a look 12 months ago it was a very different scene.



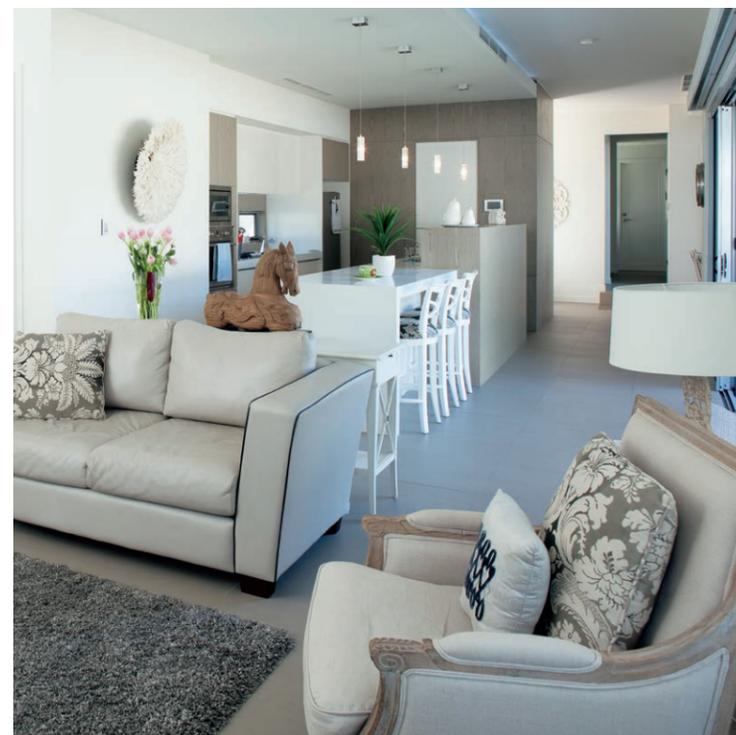
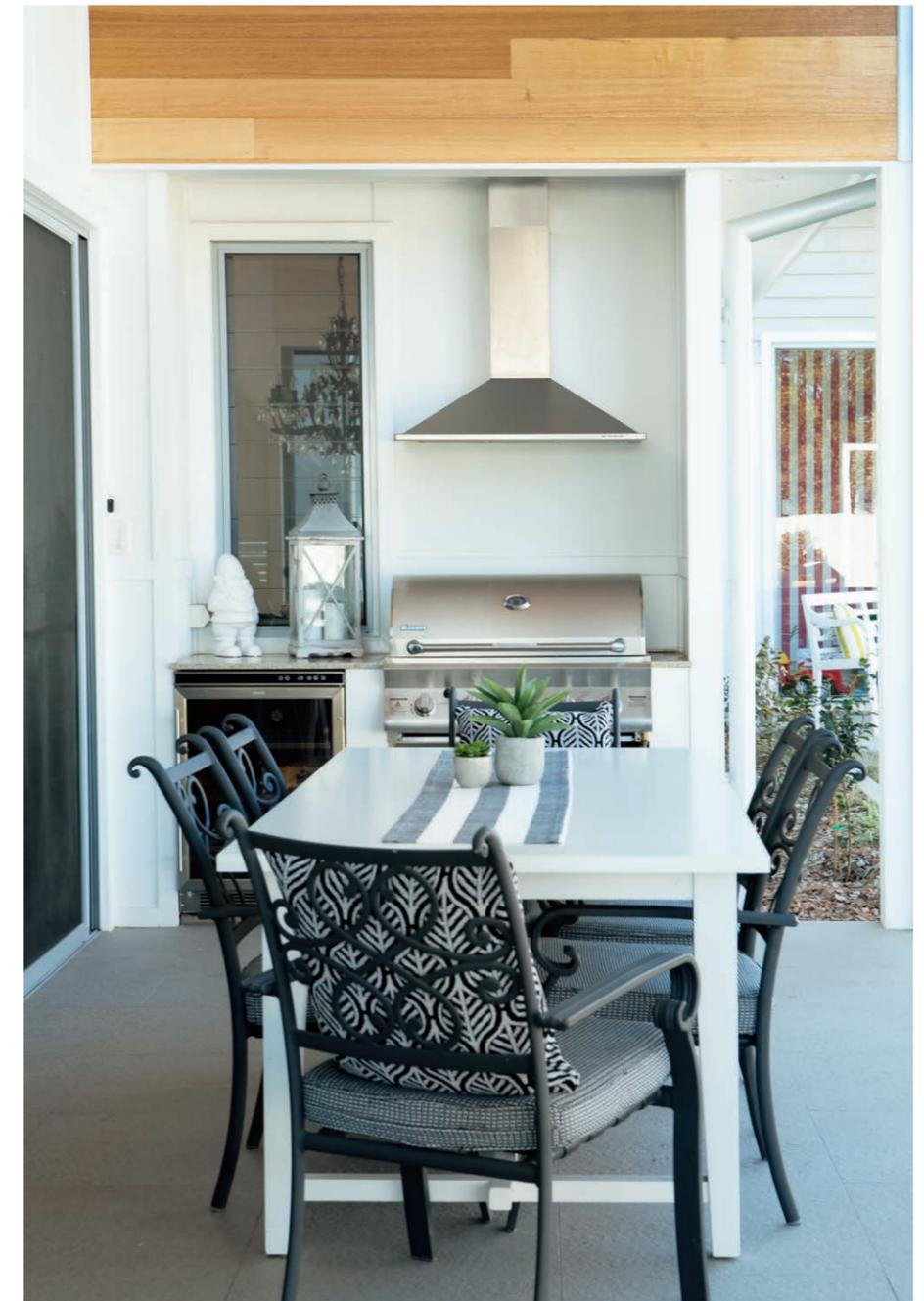
The owners have worked wonders with what was a very tired small house and turned it into a gorgeous family home with plenty of room for everyone.

The site was chosen for its large flat block. Located in one of Brisbane's inner suburbs where old homes from the forties, constructed in timber and tin are de rigeur, the 800 sqm site meant loads of room for outdoor activity for the couple's two children. Base Architecture came up with the plan and the house was constructed by Scown Built. They have been able to build up and out, adding a swimming pool along the way, and there is still plenty of outdoor space perfect for play. The original home forms the bedrooms, study and a living room upstairs with a new wing housing the master bedroom, walk-in robe and ensuite while the kitchen, living and dining are all downstairs in the new part of the house along with a generously proportioned outdoor living area.

The front door, painted in Dulux 'True Red' is an ingenious touch. It's rich and inviting and irreverent all at the same time. In fact, red has been used judiciously throughout the home, including on the upstairs balcony where an external wall feature made by Yellow Goat Design is an inspired touch.

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The dining table is a family piece and was restored by the owners and the chairs recovered. A gorgeous chandelier from Charcoal Interiors sits above adding a glamorous touch.

The house has been designed so that the centrally placed kitchen offers a vantage point over the lounge, garden, and towards the children's playroom, so that the owners can keep an eye on them. Timber louvres in the sitting room add a tropical touch, and remote controlled blinds have been installed over a fixed panel of glass which gives views out to the spacious outdoor kitchen and dining area and the grassy lawn which is perfect for children's play.

Textural contrasts ensure the whole space works well. Timber veneer cabinetry has been used in the lounge room and in the kitchen along with white benchtops, timber furniture and glossy ceramic accessories, creating a harmonious feel.

For most part, the home has been decorated in neutral tones and this has created a serene and welcoming atmosphere. Rugs, fabrics and accessories in a variety of textures add the depth that is needed when using such pale colours and splashes of red lend exuberance to the mood.

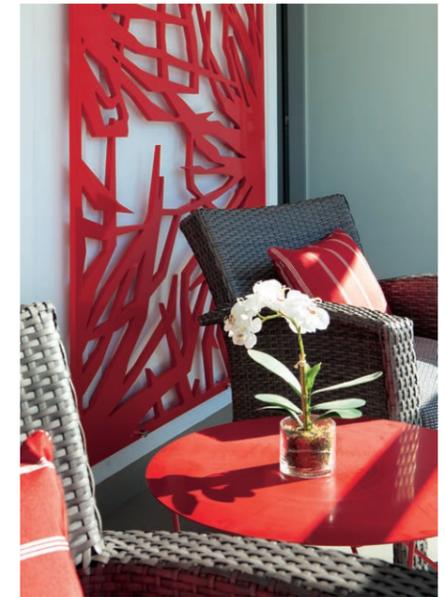
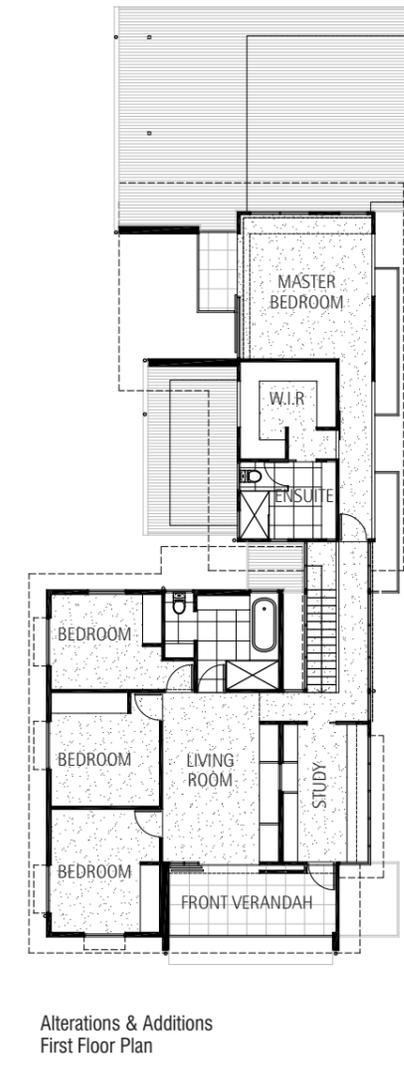
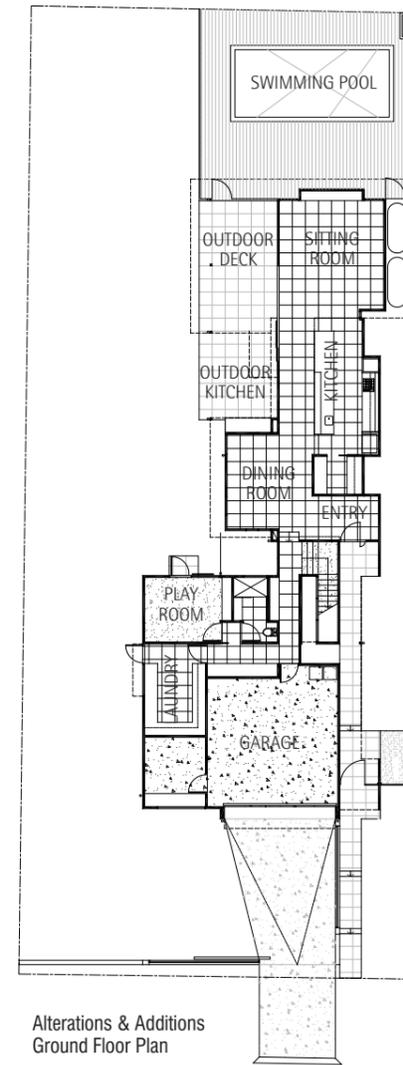


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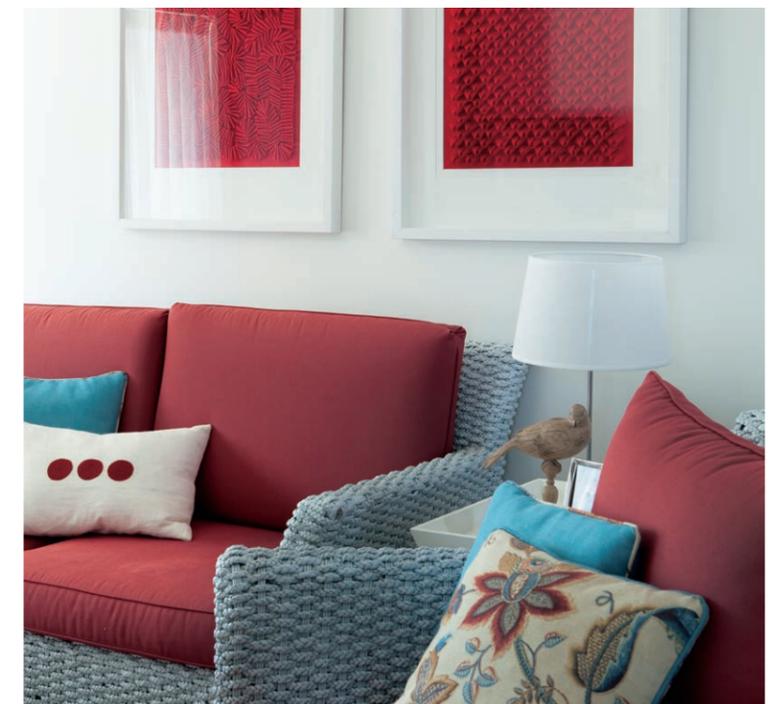
Outside, above the dining area, a double height timber-lined ceiling and a corrugated iron roof reference the home's past. This area is east facing, and an exterior blind can be lowered when necessary.

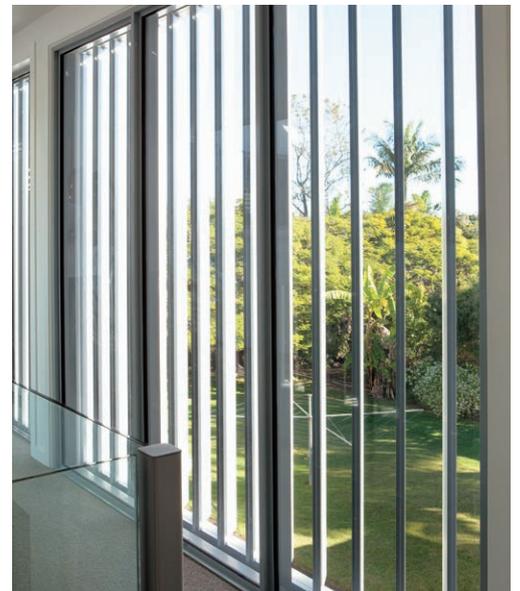
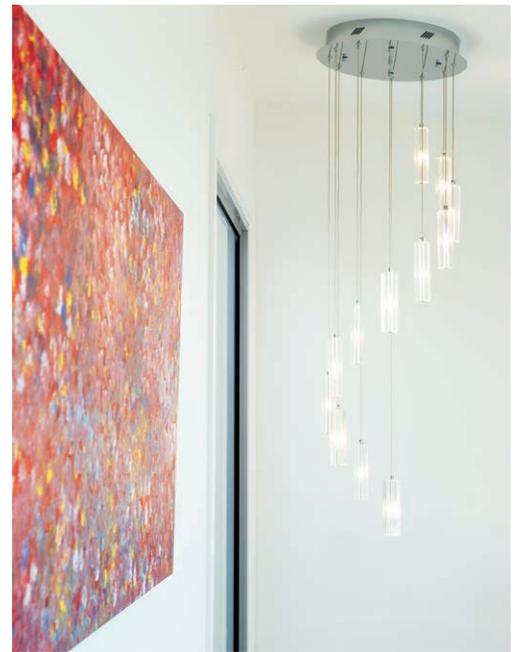
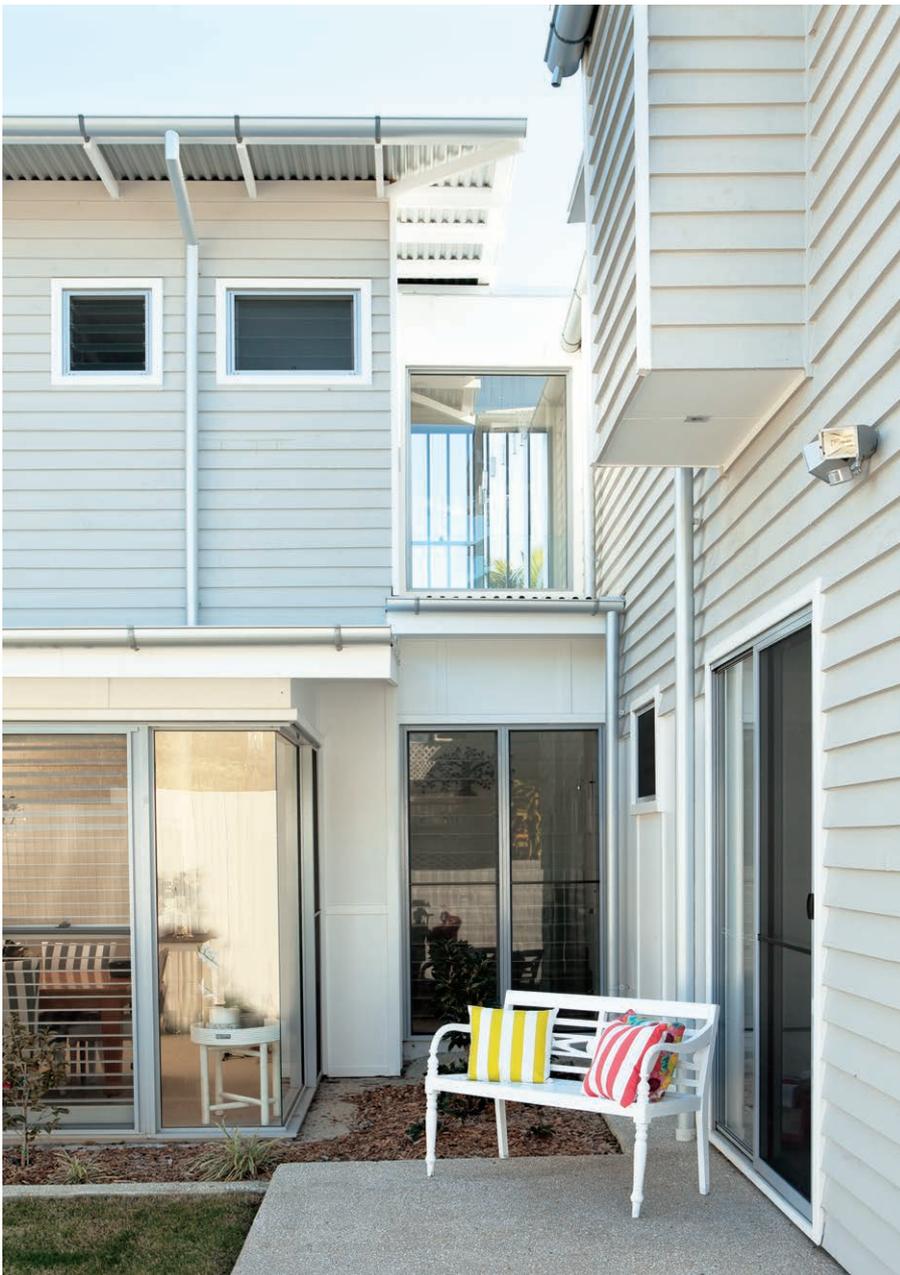
The new wing upstairs is connected to the original house via a glass transitional space that receives the full impact of the westerly sun and here, the owners chose external motorised vertical louvres from Vanguard which can be closed to prevent heat from entering the house, while allowing light in at other times.

In the master and guest bedrooms calm neutrals rule the day once more with cushions from Bandhini and lamps from Laura Ashley. In the upstairs sitting room a cane sofa has been brought to life with new paint and new covers.



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With a background in project management the wife was experienced enough to know that if she specified all fixtures and finishes before the build she would be saving time and money during the stressful days when construction was underway.

Character areas like this one are protected from unseemly development by Council by-laws, and in this case, construction had to be carried out in lightweight materials that blended in with the neighbourhood - and happily, with the owners' wishes.

This renovation is a perfect example of what can be achieved with a light touch that does not ignore the past.

Go to queenslandhomes.com.au to see behind the scenes at our photo shoot.

