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100 Seamless transition
A 1930s semi gets a modern makeover

106 Learn from the pros
We get the inside scoop as three experts reveal their trade secrets for a stylish home

120 3 looks in linen
What’s your favourite bedlinen style?

Custom joinery features throughout the renovated home of Nicole Burns – and it’s sturdy enough to withstand knocks from her sons Benjamin, 3 (left) and Oliver, 4. Turn the page to see more of Nicole’s renovation. →
REAL-LIFE RENO

BRINGING AN OLD HOUSE TO LIFE

A couple transform their 1930s semi into a modern family home

In the dark ages
The dingy kitchen fell apart and couldn't even fit a breakfast table.

Before: Georgian
When they bought the house, it was small and poky.

Before: Georgian
Edward bought the house, it's small and poky.

After: Georgian
The new home features a flowing layout with plenty of home space for the growing family.

Modern extension
The new kitchen is part of the home's extension, which includes a great open-plan dining and living area. Glossy white joinery and white walls bounce light around the new space, while timber vanities joinery add warmth. Concrete flooring anchors the look.

custom joinery = ample storage
THE GREAT DIVIDE

HOME LAYOUT

The new design is enveloped in a long rectangle, with the house purposely divided into two areas. The “rest area” in the original part of the home includes the three bedrooms, bathrooms and study.

Meanwhile, the “energy area” was created in the new extension and houses the open-plan kitchen/dining/living room, which leads to the garden. The areas are divided not only by the entry, but also by a massive sliding wall. Flooring, too, differentiates the zones — traditional carpet and floorboards in the “rest area” and polished concrete in the “energy area”.

RETURN TO SPLENDOUR

A conscious effort was made to maintain the original 1930s features, such as the decorative cornices and sash windows. In a nod to the home’s heritage, an Art-Deco-inspired curved oak-receiver wall connects the original part of the house to the new extension. “This is my favourite feature,” Nicole says.

FINISHING TOUCHES

THE FINER DETAILS

Nicole consulted her architect, Nathaniel, to help her achieve the minimal but homely look she was after. “He was able to visualise a product better than me and put my decorating ideas in context,” she says. What little decorating Nicole did stemmed from hours spent online shopping. “I love the originality of products from Easy, Third Drawer Down and Madeit — a few of my favourite sites.”

In furnishing the home, Nicole and Edward invested mostly in major pieces, such as the sofa and the dining table. They did, however, save money on the Kartell “Maff” dining chairs from Space — they were six display pieces and a bargain!”

The overall effect is just what the family wanted. “It’s practical and high quality,” Nicole says. “The house feels peaceful.”

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Makiko the pug-cross loves the new-look bedroom