

HOME

The Daily Telegraph **SATURDAY**

JUNE 8, 2019

build ✓
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PLUS

Going wild in
kids' gardens



The best design
collaborations



DAMON GAMEAU

*How we can
future-proof
the planet*

My blue heaven

A fresh palette makes a modern classic

RENOVATE

Playing the blues

THE PROJECT

Owner

A single man

Designer

Karen Akers, karenakers.com.au

The brief

To refresh the house, especially the kitchen and bathroom, and make the living spaces more useful

The site

A wide-fronted terrace house in Newtown in good condition

Design solution

To leave the services where they were but divide the large bathroom in two and create a beautiful but colourful kitchen which offered a casual seating area in the sun

How long did it take

Six months



The delight is in the detail, with a gentle reimagining of a solid old terrace house, writes Robyn Willis

Sometimes everything we need is under our own roof. For the owner of this terrace house, the options for extending were limited so he called in interior designer Karen Akers to refresh and redesign what he already had.

“The client wanted to do renovations on the bathroom and kitchen, redo the flooring, paint throughout, put in a new attic window at the top and doors out the back of the kitchen area,” Karen says.

“The house was still in pretty good condition — it was really a matter of refreshing.”

While services remained in place, Karen realised that the upstairs bathroom was so large that it could be split in two to create an ensuite for the main bedroom as well as a separate bathroom.

Downstairs, the kitchen stayed in the same place, although Karen softened it with the addition of built-in seating overlooking the sunny backyard.

“The whole kitchen was



HOME TOP TIP ✨
STYLE
 Marble is pricey but you can indulge a little in a small space



MODERN
classic

installed in the 1990s," Karen says. "It was white and modern and it went right to the end with no area at the back to sit. "So we put in a little nook to capture the sunshine. It is tiny

"I WANTED A COLOURED KITCHEN BUT HE WANTED WHITE. BLUE ON ONE SIDE AND WHITE ON THE OTHER WAS THE BALANCE WE STRUCK"

but now the owner uses it more than the dining table." The owner was keen to use Ralph Lauren blue and Karen is known for using colour in her work but they had to compromise on the kitchen cupboards.

"I wanted a whole coloured kitchen but the client wanted white on white," she says. "Blue on one side and white on the other was the balance we struck."

Karen was also responsible for furnishing the spaces and she was careful to get the scale of the furniture right in each room.

"Furniture layouts are quite interesting for these kind of houses," she says. "It's how to navigate having a fireplace on one side and windows on another."

"You often want more than two people in the room so it's selecting furniture you can move around."

She worked closely with the owner, often discussing ideas over coffee to come to a solution.

"It's always the little things that make a huge difference," Karen says. "He had good ideas but he could not work out how to tie it all together."

"But he had some friends in the industry who told him to hire a design professional."

The final touch for this modern classic was traditional tessellated tiles for the front veranda.

Pictures: Thomas Dalhoff

Floor tiles laid in a herringbone pattern make the kitchen appear wider than it really is (above).

Tessellated tiles were chosen for the front veranda (right) to help the terrace house fit into the streetscape.

THE SOURCE

Painter Mullany & Co, 0420 750 231
Kitchen sink tapware The English Tapware Company, englishtapware.com.au
Ceramic drum seats Orient House, orienthouse.com.au
Kitchen chair No18 bentwood chair from Thonet, thonet.com.au
Tessellated tiles Olde English Tiles, oldeenglishtiles.com.au

