

The Daily Telegraph home

October 6, 2012

From little things

Childhood memories inspire an award-winning green renovation **12**

Display Monash Caprice by Procorp **8** **Decorate** Just for kids **10**



Renovate

The brief

To breath new light into a two-storey cottage in Clovelly that had failed to take advantage of coastal views.



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Darryn Parkinson Your Abode, yourabode.com.au

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Sharon Hamilton Your Abode (pictured above with Darryn Parkinson)

THE SOURCE

PV Panels AGL Solar Solutions, aglsolarenergy.com.au

Rainwater tanks Water Tank Factory, watertankfactory.com.au

Sustainable timber Recycled Timbers, recycledtimbers.com.au



Green star for an eco oasis

An ugly kitchen inspired an award-winning renovation, writes Catherine Nikas-Boulos

Yanina Andrews knows all too well what it means to treat water and electricity as precious commodities. Growing up on a farm, the concept of being kind to mother earth was fostered in her long before it ever became fashionable in the wider community.

Now, her Clovelly home, which she shares with partner Michael Harrison and their son Noa, 3, has had an award-winning green renovation inspired by her childhood memories.

"The idea of sustainability is really ingrained in me," Yanina says.

"I grew up on a farm and my father, who is now in his 90s, was always banging on about, 'Do not waste the water, do not waste the electricity', and it has rubbed off on me. It's just a way of giving back to the environment."

Green team

Your Abode, who specialise in eco-friendly homes, were the perfect team for this job, which entailed taking a narrow, cramped two-storey cottage with minimal light and heating, and delivering a home that fitted the brief and some.

Colleagues Darryn Parkinson and Sharon Hamilton say it ticked all the right boxes in sustainable design so it was fitting that last month it was recognised with the HIA GreenSmart Renovation/Addition award.

Almost every inch of the newly built



Recycled timber gives a warehouse look and the pool is solar heated.

skillion Colorbond roof has been fitted with photovoltaic solar panels, the pool is solar heated and fans were installed rather than airconditioning.

The house also has hydronic heating and recycled timber has been used wherever possible in the renovation.

This includes the custom-made bookshelves installed high along the dining area to save on space and the support beams which have been encased in the timber, giving the space a warehouse feel.

From little things

Yanina says the decision to renovate was born out of her aversion to the kitchen and before she knew, the whole first floor of the home was being re-designed.

"It kind of started out as a kitchen renovation and it turned in to a full renovation. When we bought the property in 2001, the kitchen had been renovated by the previous owners two years before, and the people who did the renovation hated it and sold the house. It was pretty terrible."

RENOVATE



High and mighty

Recycled timber was used for the recessed bookshelves along the top of the dining room wall. Positioning shelves high off the floor helps save space in a narrow property. The antique ladder sourced from State Rail is not only a show-piece but a practical accessory.



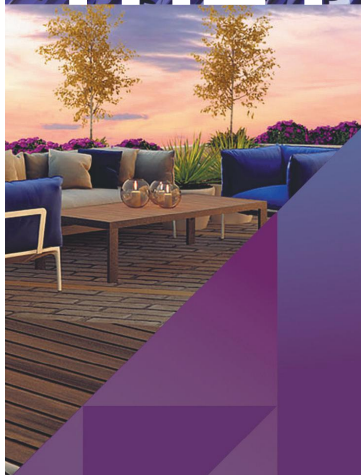
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RENOVATE

► It wasn't just the colours that posed a problem. When Your Abode assessed the property, they decided the kitchen had to be repositioned.

The house was only 5m wide and the kitchen was sitting in the middle of the floor blocking million-dollar views from the sitting area.

Simply put, Darryn says the whole of the upstairs area was wrong, the rooms were disjointed, there was no flow.

"The kitchen was at the front of the house and living at the back so you couldn't see the view. Everything about this site is about the view. We moved the kitchen and the dining to the back and created a lounge room at the front."

Raising the roof

To introduce more natural light in the house the roofline was raised and north-facing clerestory windows installed.

Not only was this GreenSmart thinking because it allowed the house to warm up and cool down naturally but in an densely populated area it meant these skyward windows did not jeopardise neighbours' privacy.

The front pergola was another problem area. The spiral staircase from the ground floor squeezed out valuable floor space and the timber construction was over-bearing.

The solution was to remove it and replace the timber with lighter stainless steel/glass framework that is now in place.

"It was an enormous structure and the usable balcony space was about half what it is now," Darryn says.

On the level

The small courtyard out the back has also been used to maximum effect. Previously

Roof tops

A skillion Colorbond roof is not only a pleasing aesthetic, but more importantly allows for the installation of clerestory windows. These windows facilitate cross-flow ventilation inside.

only accessible by their dogs Ralph and Leroy, a child-friendly and easy entertaining area now exists. Stairs were added to the original deck and the land was levelled.

A multi-platform herb garden now takes pride of place in the courtyard hiding the rainwater tanks, while a "dinosaur" strelitzia dominates the space alongside a compost bin and a pond.

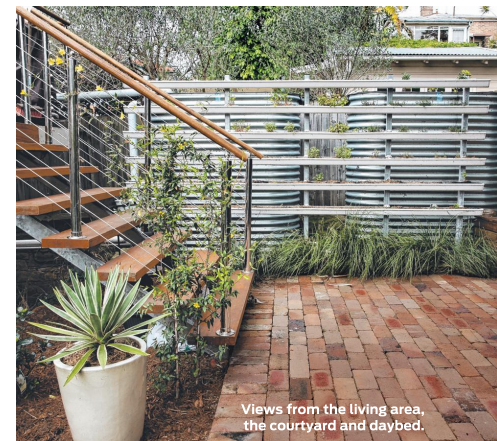
Like the home design itself, Sharon says her interior design brief was to keep things quite organic and neutral.

Splashes of colours have been added throughout the home with the use of Yanina and Michael's artwork. Noa's toys, packed under a colourful day bed add a sense of fun.

"We painted the interior white because we didn't want to make it too dark against the recycled timber throughout the house. Yanina and Michael wanted the house to have an organic feel," Sharon says. [home catherine.nikas@news.com.au](mailto:catherine.nikas@news.com.au)
Pictures Bob Barker



Are you renovating? Tell us about it at [facebook.com/DTheHome](https://www.facebook.com/DTheHome)



Views from the living area, the courtyard and daybed.

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