

space

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growth areas

More room to move in this 120-year-old heritage house.

Words Sandra Killen

Grafting a new extension onto a heritage home requires some crafty thinking. Having lived in it for about 20 years, the owner of this 1890s house at Red Hill in Brisbane's inner west wanted extra space for his two young children as well as his adult son. He and his wife were also keen to have flexible living/work spaces to either rent out or use themselves.

The original servants' quarters and a 1960s extension have been absorbed into ▶



Places to go ... From front (opening page) to back, this stunning blend of old and new makes intelligent use of space.

a sophisticated building that now has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a gym, pool, indoor and outdoor living/entertainment/courtyard areas, a garage and workshop. There's also room for an office space with its own reception area, a separate entry and offstreet parking. All this on a sloping site at the busy intersection of a main road and a narrow side street.

"We exploited the drama common in steep, inner-city Brisbane blocks," Chris Bligh of Bligh Graham Architects says of the new extension, completed about a year ago. "The original black batten 'skirt' on the home is continued visually in the form of a 6m-high black wall with an articulated surface and sliding screen wall. This amplifies the fall of the site and echoes the original double-height battened undercroft."

Upstairs, where the bedrooms, main bathroom and lounge are located, New Guinea rosewood and recycled crow's ash on the floors and joinery add a warm dimension to the simple decor. And the leafy canopy of a mature tuckeroo tree makes a corner bedroom feel like a fantastic treehouse to its young occupant. ■



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