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el plate boxes  
d" into the  
which visually  
ng room into  
a.



The stair redesign allowed for more direct access to the upper floor while giving back valuable space to the living area.



## A walk on the wild side

An award-winning home looking out to lush trees, wildlife and offering touches of bright green inside provides a strong connection to the outdoors

Preparing for the birth of your first child can be daunting enough, but add in a home renovation (plus pesky possums and a python!) and it's a recipe for extreme stress. Michele and Kevin happily welcomed their first child, Christopher, just two weeks after demolition of their home began, but it was hardly the sort of welcome home for baby that most new parents dream of, nor the most peaceful of environments for a sleeping newborn.

The original single-storey house situated in the north-western corner of their site had been renovated by the previous owner, an enthusiastic handyman; however, not much thought was given to the impact of a second-storey addition to the ground floor. The stair that led up to this new level had been placed in such a way that it made part of the living area a circulation corridor and created a rather large, unusable space in the south-eastern corner of the house.

Both Michele and Kevin enjoy cooking, so the kitchen had a special significance for them and would be the site for many family meals at home. The kitchen was housed in a room to the north, as was the laundry and WC, blocking most natural northern light throughout the day.

The overall feeling of the ground-floor space was cluttered and there was no connection to the lush natural garden and trees. The brief was to completely replan the ground floor. The clients desired a better connection with the





TO THE SOUTH, A DISUSED FIREPLACE WAS REMOVED AND THE WHOLE WALL WAS OPENED UP. THIS OPENED VIEWS TO THE LUSH NATURAL GARDEN AND TREES.

de and an open-plan living/dining/kitchen  
gement that would allow natural light to  
rate the house.  
chele is an interior designer, so she was  
open to all suggestions by architect Vladimir  
y and had an immediate understanding of the  
ings and concepts he presented to the couple.  
felt that the additions had to be radical  
er than sympathetic to the existing house and  
ave clients agreed. There was not a single  
characteristic left in the existing house that had not  
destroyed by the previous intervention. The  
each was one of contrast rather than blending  
ys Vladimir.  
allow light into the space, all internal walls of  
existing kitchen and laundry were demolished,  
the existing stair. To the south, a disused  
ce was removed and the whole wall opened  
is opened views out to the lush natural  
n and trees.

The new kitchen, laundry and bathroom were placed in almost the same positions they had occupied previously. However, a clear splashback and highlight window and glazed steel-frame door in the laundry area allow for much-needed light to penetrate the entry and dining areas.

The stair redesign allowed for a more direct access to the upper floor while giving back valuable space to the living area. The new stair is also constructed from a 10mm folded steel plate, with a resin finish to the threads. The stair rests on a concrete plinth, which becomes a daybed to the eastern corner of the living room area. The central core of the stair is clad in a rich, dark timber veneer, which balances the starkness of the steel.

"A series of steel plate boxes were 'plugged' into the southern wall. The three modules are integral windows/storage units, constructed from 10mm steel plate and steel window frames. These not only provide and control views to the landscaped area of

**Left:** The three modules are integral windows/storage units, constructed from a 10mm steel plate and steel window frames.

**Below:** The new kitchen was placed in almost the same position it had occupied previously.



A clear splashback allows for much-needed light to penetrate the entry and dining areas.

## The task:

- ★ Replan the ground floor of the house.
- ★ Create a better connection with outside; an open-plan living/dining/kitchen area to allow natural light to penetrate.

## How it was done:

- ★ All internal walls of the existing kitchen and laundry were demolished, as was the existing stair.
- ★ A whole wall was opened up for views to the lush natural garden and trees.
- ★ A clear splashback, highlight window and glazed steel frame door in the laundry area allow light to penetrate the entry and dining areas.
- ★ Redesign the stair for more direct access to the upper floor while giving valuable space back to the living area.
- ★ Three steel boxes with fluorescent-green joinery further enhance the connection with outside vegetation.

The light-filled living area offers more storage underneath the windows in the attractive fluorescent-green boxes.



A secret storage spot!



boxes with  
rean  
south  
ice the  
with the  
ation.



but also visually project the living room  
landscape," says Vladimir.  
"the three steel boxes with their  
green joinery to the south further  
the connection with the outside  
and the new steel stair which  
the design" as his favourite aspects of  
ion, which was recently awarded  
ation in the Australian Institute of  
awards for Residential Architecture  
and Additions.  
stant invasion of wildlife while the  
under construction did prove to be  
ing a python living in the ceiling and  
alking all over the stair resin finish before  
ere quite unusual and unexpected  
"Vladimir said,  
ily now has a fresh new home to suit  
y grow and will be the perfect place to  
me of memories together.

r&amp;e



Add a splash of colour  
with bright joinery.

BEFORE



BEFORE



BEFORE

## Project particulars

### This project was designed by:

Vladimir Ivanov  
**CULLINAN IVANOV PARTNERSHIP**  
123 Commonwealth Street,  
Surry Hills NSW 2010  
Tel: 02 9212 1796  
Email: vlad@cipartnership.com  
Website: www.vniarchitects.com.au  
Photography: Charmaine Pang

### This project was built by:

**PAUL KING PTY LTD**  
Mobile: 0412 446 355  
Licence Number: 7405 10

### Flooring

Kitchen: BASF two-pack white resin  
Dining/living: Blackbutt  
Stair: 10mm steel plate with BASF  
two-pack Dark Grey resin  
Other: Bathroom — Pietra Medicea  
600mm x 300mm stone tiles

### Walls

Stair: Zebrano veneer panels

### Kitchen

All joinery by SWD Detailed Joinery  
Tel: 0416 166 212  
Benchtop: Corian Cameo White  
Splashback: 10mm clear, toughened glass  
Cabinetry: Polyurethane and  
Zebrano veneer

### Sanitary fixtures

Vanity: C3 90L from Rogerseller  
Tel: 02 9332 4800

Toilet: Wall-hung WC Villeroy + Boch  
Normina wall-hung pan with soft-close  
seat, concealed cistern, Geberit vanity-  
set cistern with top access panel and  
cistern buttons Remote Mark 3 type from  
Candana Design  
Tel: 02 9389 8631  
Bath: Kaldewei Saniform Plus from  
Bright Water Bathware  
Tel: 02 9380 4222

### Bathroom fittings

Vanity: Vola KVI tapware chrome finish  
Bath tap set: Vola BK6 chrome finish  
Shower rose and tap set: Vola 781  
chrome finish  
Soap holder: Vola T4 chrome finish  
Toilet roller holder: Vola T12-BP chrome  
finish from Candana Design  
Tel: 02 9389 8631  
Towel rails: Madinoz MDZ TR5606/B from  
Style Finish  
Tel: 02 9957 6344

### Lighting

TUBO 270mm high light fitting by Modus  
from JSB Lighting  
Tel: 02 9571 8800  
LIDO 250mm and 300mm light fittings  
from Euroluce  
Tel: 02 9380 6222

### Windows + external doors

Steel-framed doors from  
Skyrange Windows  
Tel: 03 9480 2066

AFTER

