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transform

Because every house can be a beautiful home



elegant update

Start fresh this February with a sophisticated new look, using a space-enhancing home extension as inspiration. Also, we've laid the groundwork to guide you through the latest flooring finds (page 127); plus we have your storage woes sorted (page 139).

light touch

A clever extension has breathed new life into this Cape Cod-style home

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PHOTOGRAPHY RHIANNON SLATTER

SITUATED IN MELBOURNE'S leafy Eastern suburbs, Jenny and Mark's stylish four-bedroom Cape Cod-style home was a "tale of two buildings" when the couple bought the property four years ago. After being drawn in by the pretty weatherboard facade, they were surprised to discover that the rear of the home was more garden shack than Hamptons chic. "It was a complete disaster," recalls Jenny. "The roof had an obvious sag in it, the garden was completely overgrown and the kitchen was tiny and dated."

With three children in tow, the couple was desperate for a larger home that could accommodate the whole family's needs. On paper, their new abode didn't meet the brief, so the couple hatched an ambitious plan to nearly double the home's footprint by building an extension out the back. They called on the talents of interior designer Carolyn Burns-McCrave and relocated to a nearby rental as the bulldozers moved in.

The new extension retains the home's charming aesthetic, delivering extra bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. The ground floor has reaped the benefits of the additional space, with an airy new open-plan living and dining room with a vaulted ceiling, a Hamptons-style kitchen and warming timber floorboards throughout. The generous lounge overlooks a stunning swimming pool, a must for Jenny, while the dining zone opens onto a covered terrace. "The kitchen is my favourite space in the new extension because I can display my beautiful Spode china," says Jenny. "I could never imagine growing tired of it."

Now complete, the contemporary extension was a huge undertaking, but well worth the upheaval. "Halfway through the project we realised it probably would have been easier to start from scratch, but a new house wouldn't have such a unique feel," says Jenny. "We love its sense of space and mix of old and new styles."

kitchen Jenny's new dream kitchen comes complete with display cabinets to showcase her treasured Spode china collection. The stylish panelled joinery, a mix of glass-fronted cabinetry and practical storage units, runs over the pantry door and flanks the central rangehood. Glossy handmade 'Vogue Tortora' tiles blanket the splashback and rear wall, contrasting with the contemporary Caesarstone bench below. A Qasair extractor is concealed in an elegant panelled chimney, flanked by decorative corbels.



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Kitchen

- Appliances:** Westinghouse refrigerator, from \$4500, Qasair 'ECH900F' rangehood, from \$1649, both Elite Appliances.
- Benchtop:** Caesarstone in Almond Rocca, \$500/sqm, Caesarstone.
- Paint:** Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology in Hog Bristle, \$74.95/4L, Antique White USA, \$74.95/4L, both Dulux.
- Sink:** Oliveri 'Sonetto 1063U' stainless steel undermount sink, \$770, Elite Appliances.
- Tapware:** Intasink 'Antiqua Twin Lever' chrome tap, \$506, Burdens Plumbing.
- Tiles:** 'Vogue Tortora' tiles, \$99/sqm, De Fazio.

Butler's pantry

- Benchtop:** Laminex in Diamond Gloss Persian Stone, \$95/sqm, Laminex.
- Paint:** Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology in Hog Bristle (half strength), \$74.95/4L, Dulux.
- Tapware:** Phoenix 'Lexi' sink mixer, \$253, Burdens Plumbing.

owner's advice

Choosing an interior designer who you trust is key when renovating. "Originally, we were going to have a flat ceiling in the open-plan living room [see page 116], but when Carolyn came on board she proposed a vaulted ceiling and triangular windows to inject some character and a greater sense of space," explains Jenny. "We were unsure at first as it did impact on the budget, but we trusted her and now it's our favourite design feature."

TIMELINE

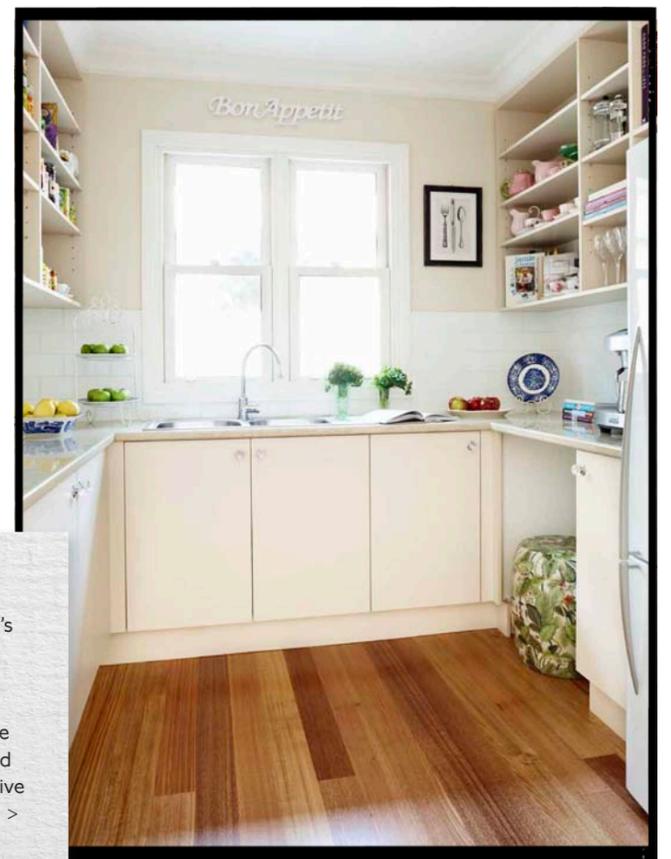
April - Dec 2010 The back porch is torn down and the garden cleared. The demolition team removes the old swimming pool, foundations are laid and the rear of the house is demolished.

Jan - May 2011 Framing for the extension begins and the downstairs windows go in. The ground floor brickwork commences, roof trusses are added and plasterboarding begins. Timber floorboards are installed.

June 2011 - July 2012 The kitchen cabinetry is fitted and painting begins inside and out. Appliances are installed, including a gas fire and light fittings. The kitchen tiling is completed.

Sept 2011 - May 2012 The hole for the new swimming pool is dug. A temporary fence is erected and new turf laid down. The pool is installed and sandstone paving commences. A new glass pool fence is fitted.

butler's pantry The butler's pantry echoes the kitchen's elegant style but with budget-friendly options. Expensive Caesarstone benchtops have been swapped for hard-wearing Laminex, and plain cupboard doors, painted in Dulux Hog Bristle, have been embellished with pretty glass handles. Simple white subway tiles create a stylish splashback that wraps around the room, perfect for easy cleaning. Open shelving, a less expensive option than cupboards, provides Jenny with extra display space. >



Kitchen + pantry

living + living + exterior

living room The show-stopping vaulted ceiling in the living room was interior designer Carolyn's 'eureka' moment. Keen to maximise the room's sense of space, showcase the pretty treetop views and deliver the Hamptons vibe, she harnessed the void in the pitched roof space above to create a cathedral ceiling. The generous ceiling height provides ample space for Jenny's replica Studio Job 'Paper' chandelier from Sokol. The central fireplace is flanked by French doors, which give the room a balanced, symmetrical focal point and traditional feel. Awash in soft tones and warming finishes, the airy open-plan space is painted in Dulux Hog Bristle, with joinery highlighted in Dulux Antique White USA.

"We didn't really understand what we were taking on until we saw the house practically cut in half!" - Jenny



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Living room

- Fireplace:** Fireplace, from \$6000, Agnews Fireplaces.
- Furniture:** Coffee table, for similar try 'Industry' coffee table, Interiors Online.
- Lighting:** Replica Studio Job 'Paper' chandelier in White, \$859/large, Sokol.
- Mirror:** 'Churchill' mirror, \$980, Town & Country Style.

Dining room

- Furniture:** Dining table, for similar try Early Settler. 'Jasper R' chairs in White, \$265 each, Click On Furniture.



exterior Traditional weatherboard cladding joins pitched rooflines for quintessential Cape Cod style. French windows and sliding glass doors open out into the garden, which comes complete with a timber verandah and sheltered terrace for entertaining. Tactile sandstone pavers surround Jenny's must-have swimming pool. **hb**

expert tips

Choosing windows and doors
Josephine Lazzaro from Trend Windows & Doors shares her advice:

- When deciding between timber and aluminium window frames or doors, consider the cost, maintenance, and look. Timber offers natural warmth, and can be stained or painted in any colour, while aluminium is low-maintenance, and comes pre-finished in a wide range of colours.
- When renovating or building, try to design with standard window and door sizes, as non-standard sizes can incur additional costs. On new builds and large renovations, make sure that the windows and doors you choose meet the energy efficiency requirements specified on your Assessor Report.
- If your home is affected by noise pollution you may want to consider acoustic solutions, such as laminated glass or a double glazed unit (DGU).
- Be aware of council and Building Code of Australia regulations. Your local council may require you to keep windows within the style of the area.

living + living + exterior