

# New light shed on Freo terrace

■ Angie Tomlinson

**L**ight scoops, a central courtyard and a clear definition between the old and the new have injected fresh life into this classic Fremantle terrace.

Designed by architect Philip Stejskal and built by Swell Homes, the addition and revamp of the existing home has given its owners, the Wyatt family, a magical place to live.

When Duncan Wyatt bought the home in 2007 it was a muddle of small, dark rooms. Today the old lounge has become a third bedroom, the kitchen transformed into a bathroom and the old bathroom and a bedroom became the new kitchen.

A lean-to and nest of concrete out-sheds were demolished to make way for the extension, including a living space, courtyard and a sunlit corridor that gives access to a rear garage, and above, a self-contained apartment and roof terrace.

Mr Stejskal took his design prompts from the confines of the site, including an east-west orientation and a narrow 6m frontage.

The design takes every chance to inject northern light into the home, including three roof light scoops along the extension and a central north-facing courtyard.

"Those elements really drive the project — once we had those ingredients the rest of the design came around them," Mr Stejskal said.

There was also a concerted effort to differentiate the historical home from the new extension.

Swell Homes had the texture-coat render on the exterior hand trowelled to give the extension a Spanish hacienda look. The white render matches perfectly with painted fibre-cement lattice used around the courtyard, and contrasts with the wire-cut brown face brick at the rear.



This South Fremantle home was transformed by Swell Homes and Philip Stejskal Architecture. Pictures: Robert Frith

Perhaps the most distinct line between old and new has been drawn inside, where jarrah floors turn to polished speckled concrete.

"To knit the old and the new together we installed new cabinetry through the existing home and the kitchen bench is the stitch holding the two together," Mr Stejskal said.

Ply built-in cabinetry by Western Select Products is a major feature, running along the passage of the old home, to the ceiling in the bedrooms and throughout the spaces of the extension.

A keen cook, Mr Wyatt's favourite part of the home is the kitchen of ply cabinetry, dark splashback tiles and protruding box that allows the

sea breeze to cool the kitchen via louvre windows.

"I can make dinner or make the girls' lunches in the morning and still interact with everyone," Mr Wyatt said. "Plus there is so much storage and everything is within easy reach."

The living space connects via bi-fold doors to the central decked and grassed courtyard. A corridor, with bi-fold windows and ply window seat, run along the edge of the courtyard and leads to an apartment above the garage.

Ply cabinetry is again a feature in the bedroom and ensuite, but in a quest to give the space a "solid" feel, Swell Homes created a ceiling from an exposed-concrete suspended

slab. The bedroom accesses a landing where galvanised treads lead to a roof terrace giving views to the ocean and port. With drainage and waterproofing, the terrace will soon be home to a rooftop garden.

While the builder had to deal with the usual space and access issues associated with Fremantle builds, Swell Homes principal Anthony Pillinger said he loves the finish of the design.

"The fact that not everything is perfectly manicured means the house tells a tale," he said.

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