

DREAM IT. DESIGN IT. DO IT.

perfectly extended

The owners of this Sydney home added a lifestyle-changing wing that unites the character of the old with the clean lines of the new

cheat sheet

Who lives here Kellie Margetson, an interior designer; her husband Scott, who works in the finance industry; and their son Carter, 13.

Style of home A character-filled four-bedroom cottage in Sydney's Gladesville that has been updated with a spacious modern extension and outdoor entertaining area.

⌚ After approximately 12 months of planning and designing, the extension took another 11 months to build.

living area

The clean lines of the open family area belie its detail. "In the design phase, I knew to include things like a recessed cavity for the curtain tracks," says Kellie. Hudson sofa, Pearl armchair and Iko coffee table, Jardan. The fireplace is clad in Eco Outdoor's 'Barrimall' stone. Just off the outdoor kitchen is a Vista chair from Cosh Living.



exterior & entry

New limestone pavers lead up to the home, which is freshly painted Dulux Whakarewarewa. The roofing is Colorbond in Monument, the same colour as the front door. Japanese box hedging plumps up the borders. Inside the hall (below), the walls are Dulux Natural White (half). Moooi 'Non Random' lights, Space. Art, Lyndal Hargrave.

Kellie & Scott's wishlist

- + **Pool** We have it lit up during dinner parties and it's become a visual piece as well as being functional," says Kellie.
- + **Natural stone** "I wanted a seamless look from the kitchen bench to the splashback and into the butler's pantry."
- + **Cellar** "It's two steps down from the pantry with a glass door, iron racks and terrazzo flooring. At night, the wine is illuminated so you see it on approach."



kitchen/pantry

Kellie chose cabinetry in two contrasting finishes: crown-cut American oak veneer and Taubmans All Black. The benchtops and splashbacks are slabs of Carrara marble. Schock stone sink in Magma and Armando Vicario 'Tink-D' tap, both from Abey.

When you're an interior designer blessed with the enviable combination of infinite creativity and industry know-how, imagine the expectation and pressure you might feel when the time comes to renovate your own home.

Surely it would be nigh impossible to settle on a design brief with so many variables on offer? For some, perhaps, but not Kellie Margetson, who knew exactly what she wanted from her extensive renovation and had the skill set to achieve it.

Not long after they bought their home in Sydney's Gladesville nine years ago, Kellie and her husband Scott made an agreement that they would renovate and extend the small cottage before they "got too comfortable". Despite having undergone a revamp 20 years earlier, the back of the home didn't work for them at all. "It was an unusual extension," Kellie admits. "It was too hard to play with and didn't maximise the space on the block efficiently."

In 2016, the decision was made to start work on the home's transformation to accommodate the couple's sporty 10-year-old son and sociable lifestyle. For a year, Kellie and architect Ben Giles worked on plans for an extension that not only celebrated the "variation in architecture between the old and the new", but also made the most of the large, level block by creating outdoor areas perfect for entertaining children and grown-ups alike.





dining

Custom engineered-oak boards by EuroStyle Floors harmonise with the furniture. Flynn dining table from Jardan, with well-loved chairs. Hanging together as one, the cluster of Sphere pendant lights from Hub Furniture points to the heart of the home.

DREAM IT.

“We have family in Camden and my husband works in Dural, I frequently work in the eastern suburbs, and our son goes to school in Stanmore,” says Kellie of her family’s diverse routine, which takes them all over Sydney. That was part of the attraction to the lower northern suburb of Gladesville. “It’s right in the middle. It’s also leafy and family-oriented, with a really nice down-to-earth community and developing cafe scene... which took a while to take off, mind you!”

When they purchased the home, Kellie says they were “quite happy to buy a little three-bedroom with a lean-to on the back”, knowing they were always going to build a very modern extension with that variation between old and new.

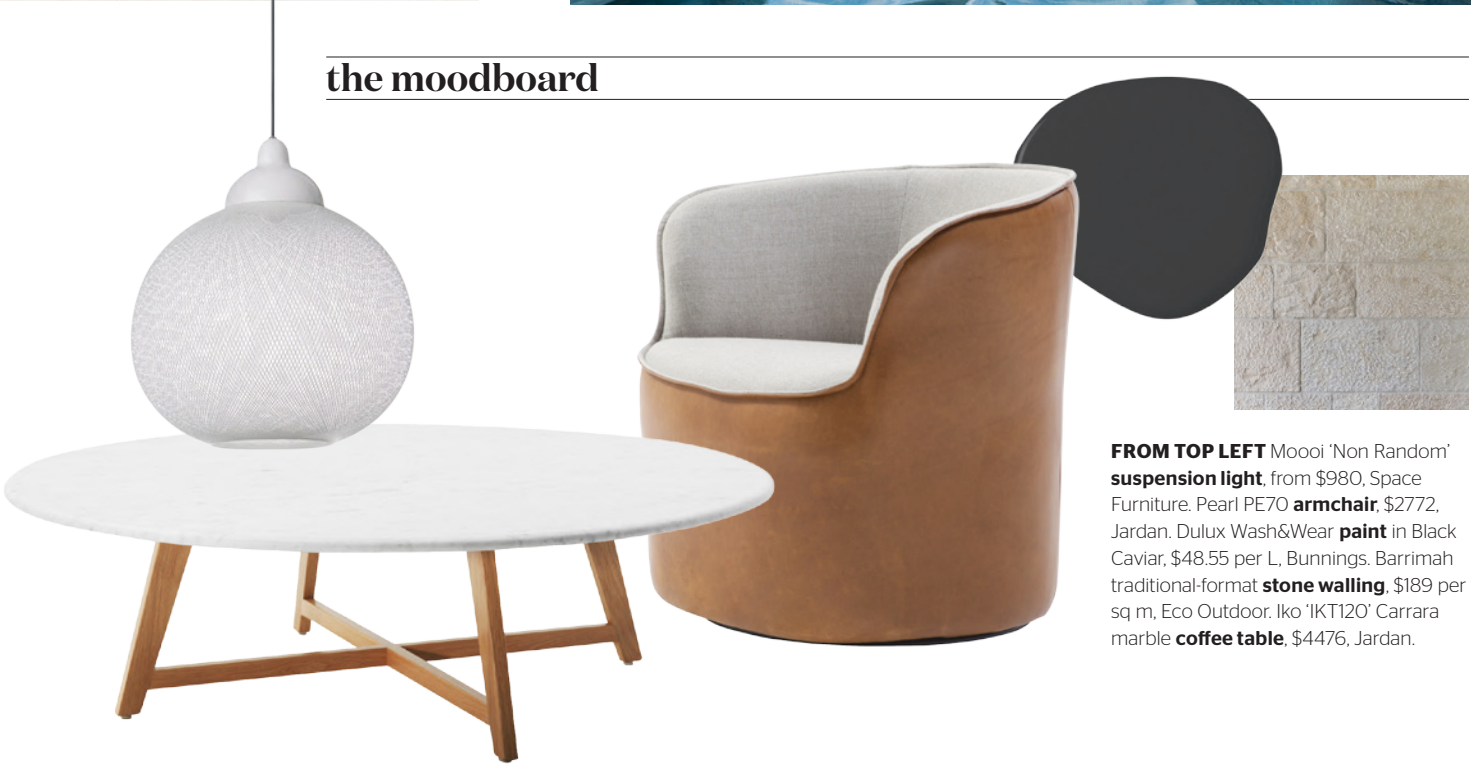
Aside from wanting to explore what Kellie calls a “sense of conflict” between architectural styles, the family wanted to include an extra living/rumpus room for their son and his friends to hang out, a fully functioning cellar to collect wine in and enjoy, and an outdoor entertaining area with a seamless connection to the interior. “It literally doubles our living space,” says Kellie.

“We made the pool deep in the middle, which works well because kids love to play ball sports in there and this design avoids someone having to dog paddle up the other end

KELLIE MARGETSON, HOMEOWNER

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the moodboard



FROM TOP LEFT Moooi 'Non Random' suspension light, from \$980, Space Furniture. Pearl PE70 armchair, \$2772, Jardan. Dulux Wash&Wear paint in Black Caviar, \$48.55 per L, Bunnings. Barrimah traditional-format stone walling, \$189 per sq m, Eco Outdoor. Iko 'IKT120' Carrara marble coffee table, \$4476, Jardan.

pool area

Having the water so close to the house makes diving in a 24/7 temptation. Around the pool are Chambon sandblasted travertine pavers from Eco Outdoor. Jitt black pots, The Balcony Garden. Weatherex 'Weathergroove Smooth' exterior cladding, painted Dulux Black Caviar.





main bedroom

Close proximity to the pool required a flexible window solution and glass louvres fit the bill. The bedhead’s linen fabric is from Westbury Textiles and the throw is from Jordan. Bedside table, Orient House. Light, Design Nation.



laundry

The cabinetry is the same as the kitchen’s. Caesarstone Slick Concrete benchtop. Caché pendant light (in guest toilet) from Great Dane. Tiles, all Surface Gallery. Discover more about the Miele 8kg WDD 030 front-loading washing machine at National Product Review (nationalproductreview.com).

DESIGN IT.

With its weatherboard cladding, quaint fretwork and cottage garden, the front aspect celebrates the original home’s 100-year-old history and gives no indication of what lies beyond – which was always the intention. “I wanted to be respectful to the front of the house and the architecture of the old building,” says Kellie.

Inside, the high skirting, thicker cornices and detailed door and window architraves have been similarly restored. “But as soon as we transitioned into the extension, we went for a more modern aesthetic with the square-set ceilings and shadow-line details around doors and architraves. It’s a very personal thing, but I wanted to have that contrast between the two.” A bold palette of black, white and shades of grey visually connects the two zones, as does the new oak flooring that features throughout.

While Kellie focused on the architectural and material considerations, and the backwards and forwards of planning with architect Ben, she says Scott had his own priorities. “There were a few things he felt strongly about, and the cellar was one of them,” she says with a laugh. “The pool was the other; he likes to do laps so the shape and style of the pool were really important.”

DO IT.

Kellie understood the benefit of locking in design details and material specifications long before the build started, which made for a smooth construction process and meant she had a handle on the overall spend. “Ours was not a \$10 million build so it wasn’t overly complicated,” she says. “It was pretty straightforward, and so was our budget!” That’s not to say the 262-square-metre design didn’t have its share of detail, such as the recessed cavity for curtains in the living area and a completely flush flooring transition from inside to out, something not all builders are keen to tackle.

“Thankfully, we had the most amazing builder – Peter Ginns from Genuine Building Services – and he had worked on a lot of architectural projects, so that was the way he rolled, too. I was so impressed by his attention to detail. Pete never comes to you with a problem unless he has a solution to fix it!”

Having managed numerous projects of her own, there weren’t a lot of surprises for Kellie on site, though she does say that being her own client was a different experience. “Even though I had a clear direction of what I wanted, I laboured on a few small details. I had to tell myself to settle down and make that decision without having to consider all the other options out there!” One of the most surprising areas of discussion related to the pool, where the couple debated the placement of the steps. “I wanted to put three steps at the end but Scott felt that was going to shorten his lap run. We now have a big shelf that runs along the perimeter – which also works well for drinking champagne!”

So has that longed-for connection to the garden finally been achieved? “Absolutely,” says Kellie. “We do a lot of entertaining and live outside a lot more now. It’s so comfortable.” 10 See more of Kellie’s work at kelliemargetsondesign.com.au. Ben Giles: bengilesarchitect.com.au. Peter Ginns: genuinebuildingservices.com.au



the best bits

+ **Outdoor aspect** “We chose to put in three-metre ceilings and glass walls on two sides and now we have the most incredibly green, open vista from our living area,” says Kellie.

+ **Butler’s pantry** “I’m not much of a cook, but I am a neat freak and the pantry hides everything away, which is great when you’re having people over for dinner. It’s a really good work room.”

+ **Rumpus room** “A massive cavity slider closes off this new space and blocks the noise so that children can make a racket in there and we don’t have to listen to it!”

main bathroom

A large piece of Calacatta marble makes the perfect screen for the Kaldewei ‘Classic Duo Oval’ bath from Bathe. Tessellated Hexagonal floor tiles from Surface Gallery. Toss B ‘Sphere’ pendant, Hub Furniture. Artek ‘Baby Rocket’ wooden stool, Anibou.