



Rise above

Updated '80s classic scales new heights

with
**MICHELLE
BAILEY**



INTO THE BLUE ... The lap pool creates a strong focal point. **PHOTOGRAPHS** • Scott Burrows

How attitudes and tastes have changed. Before a major renovation, this Hamilton house was a monument to 1980s architecture and completely at odds with its hilltop setting. "There were small windows where you had big views and gardens that didn't engage with the house," architect Shaun Lockyer says.

"The previous house was all about projecting an image without consideration for the lifestyle of the occupants."

The new owners were adamant about keeping most of the old house but were keen to improve its appearance and functionality as a family home.

"We did not want the house to look like it had an extension," the owner says. "Our brief was to ensure it was seamless, airy and used glass to maximise the views."

Taking an unconventional approach, Shaun and his team remodelled major elements of the exterior so that the house appeared to be completely new. His architectural concept was to "shroud" the old house with new rooms and spaces. Some of the existing house is still visible from the outside, but it is disguised by new render and paint and by stone cladding.

First to go was the original porte-cochere, replaced by a striking flat-roofed structure that signals both arrival and architectural identity.

"The owners wanted something angular and edgy and provocative," Shaun says. "They are understated people but they like their architecture to be expressive."

The whole eastern side of the building was dramatically transformed. White render was applied, with parts of the ground floor clad in stone to bring focus to new walls in black zinc and timber. At the northern and southern ends of the house, folding roof forms soar over new double-height rooms, while the southeastern corner is defined by frameless windows and large corner sliding doors.

On the opposite side of the house, a new living and dining pavilion with pool and terrace has redefined the occupants' lifestyle. The long, splayed edge of the lap pool mimics the parallel course of the Brisbane River, several hundred metres below.

"It makes the house engage with the view and horizon," Shaun says.

A zinc roof defines an outdoor place for the family to gather poolside. Timber lining softens the angular roof and adds visual warmth, and the same lining is used in the living and dining spaces, unifying interior and exterior forms. Large glass doors slide back into wall pockets to reveal panoramic views.

Shaun has used three types of stone: travertine for wet areas indoors, sandstone for internal living spaces and Pepper Stone granite around the pool.

Of all the changes that Shaun and his team have made, it is the pool pavilion that has affected the family most.

"The focal point of the home is the pool and outdoor living space which links seamlessly with the family room and the kitchen where we spend most of our time," the owner says.

"Being able to swim laps every day in the lap pool while the children play in the shallow area is a great way to spend time together and be healthy at the same time."

This spot, where socialising and exercising are front and centre, also happens to be one of the best vantage points in the city.

"There are not many places in Brisbane where one can find uninterrupted panoramic views of the Brisbane River and city on a flat half-acre block and completely avoid the western sun," the owner says.

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