

Functional living-room renovation

Display Room

Interior designer Danielle Trippett reworked the living area at the back of a Melbourne home to make it more efficient.



Interior designer Danielle Trippett opened up the family room and kitchen at the back of this double-storey Melbourne terrace house to make it more functional and let in additional north-west light. A large U-shaped kitchen made way for benches against two walls, as the old central bench subdivided the

area. Removing it opened up the living area so the couch wasn't hard up against the bench.

The area was further narrowed by a laundry with an angled wall. The wall was removed and the laundry relocated in a cupboard with retractable doors to complement the kitchen cupboards. An external toilet was renovated and linked to the expanded living room with an internal door. New tall bi-fold doors were fitted into the back wall and two small side windows were enlarged to let in more light. A mirrored splashback in the kitchen reflects light and helps to bring the outdoors in. Cork on the



floor was lifted, the floorboards were polished and a glamorous chandelier was hung over the table.



By reworking the existing space rather than extending, Danielle and her husband, Dean, were able to keep the existing courtyard. They also added a timber deck that accentuated the indoor/outdoor feel of the living space. The couple thought about extending, but worked out that they'd only be adding about two

metres and it would have cost around \$100,000. They decided the money was better spent on maximising the space they had.

Danielle has been imaginative with storage so it does double duty. Two baskets which double as a coffee table provide storage for her three-year-old daughter Annabelle's toys. The specially made American oak dining table is the focal point of the area so Annabelle can play while Danielle cooks and keeps an eye on her. It's also big enough for six people to sit comfortably for a dinner party. A flat-screen TV is mounted on a side wall and a smart French-style cabinet stores DVDs, a DVD player and all the bits that technology generates.



Source: Yellow Pages

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