



ARCHITECT/PROJECT MANAGER
Trevor Hall (pictured) Trevor Hall
Architects, halliarchitects.com.au

BUILDER Elvis Mardini

Mardini Constructions Pty Ltd, mardiniconstructions.com.au

OWNERS Michael Joseph and Terry Melocco and daughter Alessandra, 18

THE SOURCE Skillion roof shed fairdinkumsheds.com.au Spotted gum timber flooring iflooring.com.au Stainless steel benchtops stainlesssteelaustralia.com









Restoration's happy ending

The Victorian era ends after four rooms, writes Catherine Nikas-Boulos

ictorian architecture is as synonymous with Leichhardt as pizza and gelato, but beyond the narrow hallways a revolution is taking place.

Like a growing number of residents, Michael Joseph and wife Terry Melocco have taken a shambles of a house, albeit with good bones, and lovingly brought it back to life in homage to its 1900s beginnings.

The reworked facade of their double fronted home, with its coloured glass Gothic windows and front porch with decorative ironwork and restored sunrise gable, is testament to their endeavours

Inside, the first four rooms of the house have also been carefully kept to style, with ornate high ceilings a point of reference. Beyond this though, the love affair with all things Victorian comes to a dramatic end.

ocation, location

Michael and Terry bought the property after being priced out of properties from Drummoyne to Five Dock.
"It was so much better than everything we

had looked at. It was double-fronted for starters. Most places we looked at in our price range were single-fronted and had lots of original features. I could see the potential," says Michael.

"It's one of the few dead-end streets in Leichhardt, close enough to Norton St and the Bay Run without the traffic and noise."

Five years on, having made the house "livable", it was time to take it a step further. The home they bought looked vastly different from what they have today.

It had been used as a boarding house and

was in frightful condition. At the back, a kitchen and bathroom was encased by a single sheet of fibro with a tiny window between two rooms, and the backyard was taken up by an asbestos-filled factory.

Window shopping

Trevor Hall Architects worked with Mardini Constructions over six months to realise a contemporary renovation to the rear which adds living space and natural light.

The new galley kitchen with one Caesarstone benchtop and another in stainless steel housing the oven and hob are

a world away from the original.

A new skillion roof with clerestory windows enhances the feeling of open space and an extra bedroom was worked into the roof space.

"Clerestory windows are brilliant in the inner city," Michael says. "You're so close to neighbours, and these windows up high give everyone total privacy. You look up to the sky and they give the illusion of space. "And in summer they allow the whole

house to breathe if you leave the louvres open, while in winter you get a glass house effect."

Flash forward

Post-renovation, the home is close to its original footprint, bar the kitchen and main bathroom, which were pushed out a metre into the driveway. "Everyone assumed we would have to keep the driveway, even though it was so tight you couldn't fit a car up the side," Michael says. "Then somebody had the idea: If we use some of that land, you could have a laundry, second bathroom and more kitchen space.



Builder Elvis Mardini says the project wrapped up in six months and although it finished ahead of schedule, the build was not

without difficulty.

The roof was particularly problematic. "From memory there were 126 flashings on that roof, which is a record for us," Elvis says. "It was really difficult because the roofline was not straightforward. There was a traditional 45-degree tiled roof, a curved roof and a splayed roof, all of which had to marry together to be watertight." ratherine.nikas@news.com.au

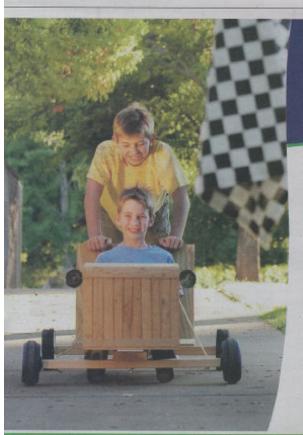
Pictures Bob Barker





Stacks of space Stacker doors are easier to move than bifolds and don't take up nearly as much space when open.





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