

Character retained for next generation

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The original timber-framed building in Cottesloe was saved to maintain the existing streetscape. Pictures: Robert Frith



A grand old dame of a home in Cottesloe had an architectural makeover to bring it up to scratch for a modern family.

Owners Nick and Rochelle Fennessy, and their two young children, sought a functional, complete new house while maintaining the majority of the existing, early 20th century timber weatherboard cottage. They sought out architect Neil Cownie to help achieve their vision for the extensive renovation, which was built by Jumeirah Homes.

“While the initial brief called for a Hamptons-styled home, the owners and I resolved to provide the house with a more timeless beach aesthetic,” Mr Cownie said.

“They wanted a house with a relaxed atmosphere, which would provide for future adaptability in use so that it would be as relevant now for their newborn baby as in the

in the future when their children are teenagers.”



The home in its previous guise.

The existing timber-framed building was saved, rather than demolishing and rebuilding, so that the materials and history were not lost.

“We felt that it was important to maintain the existing streetscape, character, scale and history set by the existing building and a large palm tree from the period of the original building,” Mr Cownie said.

The existing building was positioned to one side of the site, allowing a large open area along the northern side of the block to be used for a pool and an outdoor living pavilion. This meant the newly built section could be brought right back to the rear boundary behind the existing heritage home.

While the original home is comprised of weatherboard, the ground-floor external walls in the new addition are masonry painted in Bauwerk paint colour Smoke, which provides a visual foundation to the new work.

The timber weatherboards have been painted in Dulux Whisper White. The painted masonry walls form a solid base to the “floating” first floor, which is in painted timber

cladding.

The layout of of the house, including both new and old, was imagined to provide a versatile series of spaces that allow the Fennessy family to futureproof their home so that it remains relevant to their young family in the years to come.

The ground floor includes an entry, gym, guest suite, sitting room, living room, dining room, kitchen, toy room, garage, laundry and powder room, while the first floor harbours the main suite, ensuite, dressing room, two children's bedrooms and a bathroom, plus a family room.



The fresh-faced bathroom.

Louvred windows have been used throughout the addition to maximise ventilation, while external aluminium venetian blinds protect the north and west- facing windows of the addition. Recycled jarrah floors were chosen to tie in with the original house.

In the kitchen, cabinetry fronts are in Dulux Whisper White painted lacquer finish below the Caesarstone Snow benchtop, while the tall cupboards are in Dulux Tinker painted lacquer finish. An island bench in Calacatta marble complements white wall tiles for a clean, crisp look. “We used a neutral colour palette to provide the relaxed beachside feel,” Mr Cownie said.



The kitchen is now thoroughly modern but retains a classic appeal.

What really works is how the original house sits unaffected in the street by the large addition.

“The first floor has wonderful distant views through Cottesloe and the kitchen is orientated to take in the beautiful northern light, with an outlook to the pool,” he said.