



**TALKIN' 'BOUT MY RENOVATION**

**Open living:** The new veranda offers more space and changes the look of the house.  
Pictures: Roger D'Souza

**Michelle Collins**

THIS western suburbs renovation had several targets to achieve.

It had to provide a modern makeover allowing for new family dynamics, finish off incomplete DIY projects, repair structural damage and respect the original design by prominent Queensland architect John Hitch.

Hitch, who learnt his profession in England, moved to Queensland in 1948 after answering an advertisement by the state government.

He designed the court house in Ingham and the state government offices in Rockhampton, and had a practice in Brisbane for a short time

# Modern makeover stays true to original

before he moved to Melbourne. His "trademarks" included innovative detailing, such as disappearing windows and pressed plasterboard.

Award-winning architecture and interior design firm Arkhefield kept

many of these original features so the house could be a living monument to Hitch's work.

The Kenmore home has now been in the same family for almost two decades and, while the children have

moved out, they now bring their own families when they return for visits.

Situated on a sloping block, the two-storey house bunkered into the ground with the lower storey revealing itself as the ground drops away.

In the makeover, the lower level was demolished and lowered again to provide more space for living areas with views to the deck and for a bedroom that overlooks a sunken private courtyard.

A studio bedroom, bathroom, laundry and bar were also added.

Upstairs, the renovation included refurbishing the entry, adding a library, upgrading and extending the kitchen, opening up the house to the garden, upgrading the existing bathroom and extending and covering the existing deck.

Different entries over the two levels means different combinations of family and guests can be accommodated at any one time.



**Innovative design:** The renovated galley kitchen offers plenty of storage and bench space and is a sleek improvement on the original version (left); while the new bedroom has views and private access to a sunken courtyard (right).



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