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# ADVICE



**Light touch** A skylight above the Kado 'Leaf' bath fills the main bedroom with natural light. Tapware from Astra Walker is sleek and timeless to tie in with the natural stone rns wall and vanity.

**Climbing the walls** Kate has utilised the walls to hang the custom bedside tables by Soter Studio, Rich Brilliant Willing across and artwork by Hannah Fox, keeping the floor clutter-free.

BATHROOM

BEDROOM

WHILE RENOVATIONS ARE RARELY STRAIGHTFORWARD, every once in a while the stars align and everything just comes together. Such was the case when seasoned renovators Kate and Kris came across this crumbling 1900s weatherboard cottage – or rather, what was left of it. Having just completed a successful reno, Kate was contacted out of the blue by the real estate agent who sold their last project, suggesting she take a look at an interesting property. The home, uninhabited for more than 50 years, had changed hands twice in the past few years, and although previous owners had council-approved plans to renovate, nothing eventuated. “The property was in a great location, close to transport, had a north-facing rear, was only five kilometres from the city, and had car parking,” Kate says. “How could we not take on this project?”

Once the contracts had been signed, Kate was lucky enough to secure their previous builder, Ben Thomas Builder, at short notice and began working on the plans. “I reconfigured the entirety of the interior, respecified the exteriors and relocated and redesigned most of the glazing,” Kate says. Given the decrepit state of the property and heritage specifications, the hallway and main bedroom were the only original features able to be retained, along with a couple of oddly placed chimneys that Kate creatively adapted to the plans – the first was plastered up and worked into the ensuite and the second became a luxurious outdoor fireplace. The day of settlement coincided with council approval, and after a brief setback (despite testing, bedrock was discovered beneath the soil, causing delays), Ben began work on site almost immediately.

Fast-forward to today, and walls coated in Haymes Grayology 1 flow through the home, allowing artworks and the garden views to provide impact. White-oiled oak flooring from Maff was chosen to create a seamless yet robust finish to withstand “the daily grind with two boys”, while the lighting, sourced from local and international creatives, is simplistic yet impactful.

The build took just shy of a year and although “intense”, it was amazingly delivered on time and on budget. The end result is a spacious two-storey family home that is practical and inviting, with a calming interior. Not only is it a “lovely space to be together as a family and entertain,” Kate says, “there’s also quiet spots to retreat for some peace and quiet – bliss.” ●