

# BRANCHING OUT

*Trees lining residential streets are more often than not taken for granted, but they played a huge role in the renovation plans for this Applecross home*

THE natural vegetation lining the street where this Applecross home stands is credited by both the owners and the designer as the main reason for the success of the renovation.

Designer Daniel Lomma and owners Domenic and Joanne Canci agree that a facelift of the 1970s brick-and-tile residence would not have been possible if not for the blossoming jacaranda and gum trees surrounding the home.

"The trees make it look as if the house has been there forever, even though the place is still relatively new," Daniel says. "As you drive up the street towards the home, you wouldn't even know that there has been an addition."

The Cancis wanted to create a home that suited the immediate and long-term needs of their two young children.

Domenic, the director of Freo Constructions, says it was important to maintain the home's character and presence within the street while still thinking about his family's living requirements.

"We tried to build something that would blend in with the tree line, but without being too obnoxious," he says.

"The house always had a good feel – a family feel – so it was important to pay respect to the existing structure."

Almost every room in the original home has been gutted and refurbished, including the kitchen and bathroom.

Two small bedrooms were converted into a laundry and powder room while the original master bedroom is now a guest suite.

The new central kitchen has servery windows to the alfresco area as well as a large walk-in pantry.

A number of features associated with the Fremantle landscape – such as stone, timber and render – were incorporated into the redesign of the home.

The massive void above the formal dining room, which has full-height windows and two large stone pillars, is a striking feature of the ground-floor revamp.

"What that does is allow lots of natural light to come into the space and

make it feel bigger than it actually is," Daniel says.

"If the void wasn't there, then it would feel really closed in."

Capturing the potential city and river views on offer was also an important requirement of the renovation, so second and third storeys were added.

On the second floor, there is an expansive living room that spills out to a large balcony.

Above that is another entertaining area built into the loft.

Both spaces have panoramic views of the city skyline and Swan River and are among the many entertaining options found throughout the house.

An alfresco area with stainless steel kitchen and cedar ceiling was built between the main house and an existing detached rear garage.

The pool was refurbished while a new pitched roof was put on the garage, which was converted into a games room with bathroom.

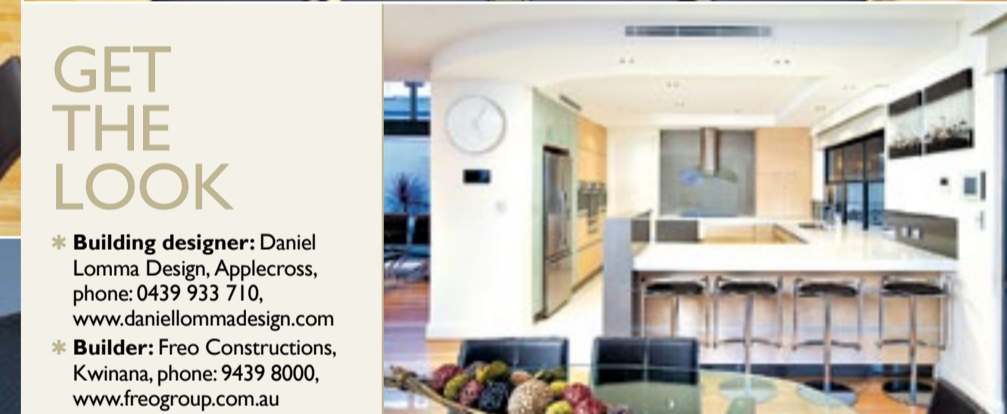
"The whole set-up works well because adults can be entertaining upstairs, one child can have friends in the loft and the other can be playing in the pool," Daniel says.

"There are a few areas not being used that much at the moment, but you would expect that to change as the kids get older."

**Michael Washbourne**



The renovated Applecross residence with the new second and third storeys blending with the surrounding trees.  
Pictures: Ron Tan



before

## GET THE LOOK

- **Building designer:** Daniel Lomma Design, Applecross, phone: 0439 933 710, [www.daniellommadesign.com](http://www.daniellommadesign.com)
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- **Tiles:** Attica, Subiaco, phone: 9382 4666, [www.attica.net.au](http://www.attica.net.au)
- **Wiring:** Novalec Electrical Services, Bibra Lake, phone: 0419 962 439
- **Cabinets:** Sympari Furniture, Bayswater, phone: 9370 4833, [www.sympari.com.au](http://www.sympari.com.au)
- **Plumbing:** Tony Garbin Plumbing and Gas, Hamilton Hill, phone: 0413 139 355
- **Engineering:** Etec Consultants, Stirling, phone: 9345 7900, [www.etc.com.au](http://www.etc.com.au)

This home was a finalist in the Residential Alterations/Additions more than \$200,000 category at the BDAWA Design Awards 2010.

