



THE ARCHITECT

Shaun Carter

Principal architect,
Carterwilliamson Architects

natural aspect

It's not a surprise that Shaun comes at the changes to this home from an altogether different perspective (and let's face it, that's what you want your architect to do)

What he loves most about the property (and Queenslanders in general) is that they work well with the natural climate. "Ideally, you aim to have a home that works 365 days a year," says Shaun, and by that, he's referring to the shade screens that sit just out from the windows around the top floor.

The timber-slatted structures sit between 50cm to 100cm out from the wall to shade windows from the harsh sun. Originally, the slats were louvred, making them adjustable to suit the time of day (as shown in the example below), however, the screens at Trudi and Jason's home are now fixed.

flip it

From a visual and practical perspective, Shaun sees an opportunity to flip the floorplan, so instead of walking up the front stairs and through the sunroom, you enter through the bottom level and walk up to the bedroom level.

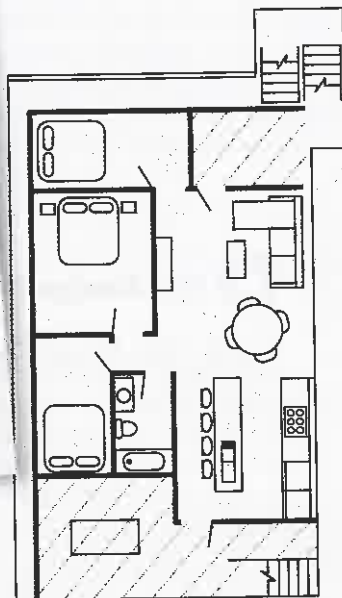
He would love to see Trudi and Jason make the entryway a visual feature. "There's a lovely opportunity to create a 'lantern' of sorts. Imagine an exposed cage that works with the sun shades and encloses the staircase that glows from within at night," says Shaun. "What a beautiful presence!"

On a day-to-day level, the long kitchen with no real dining area is an issue. He'd move the kitchen to one side, and install an island to create a walkway down the centre, feeding guests between the outdoor dining and living area.

Shaun doesn't have a huge problem with the external staircase and feels that the northern weather means that the expense and room it would take to relocate the stairs might be unnecessary. He suggests making a feature of it might be the most convenient option.



Shaun's floorplan (right) changes the home's layout to create a new entryway that has street appeal.



THE STYLIST

Lisa Koehler

ISCD educator, stylist
and interior decorator

new look

As Trudi has asked Lisa to get them started with a complete look, Lisa began with the same process she suggests to all new homeowners: create a moodboard. "It's one of my favourite design processes," says Lisa. "It's relaxing to look through images and pin them to a board - maybe with a glass of wine!"

She says it helps a designer see a connection between colours, textures and patterns. A moodboard also gives you a reference for all your questions when selecting surfaces and furniture (see Lisa's choices inspired by the image, opposite).

Trudi has indicated that she's after a neutral, contemporary look with a hint of colour. So, for flooring, Lisa recommends Tongue N Groove flooring in Bistre. "It's limed with undertones of subtle grey and rounded out with a velvety soft finish to keep the tones warm and inviting," she says.

For the walls throughout, try Resene Rice Cake in eighth strength, or Dulux Lexicon (Lisa's favourite) in quarter strength. A soft white will complement the floors and create a low contrast, which will in turn add to the illusion of more space.

Next up, it's time to choose the hard and soft furnishings. After you've put your moodboard together, Lisa says to check to see whether you lean towards images and details that have low contrast (a more harmonious mood) or more high contrast (which creates a more stimulating and vibrant mood). This will help you decide if you want pattern on the bathroom floor, or a plain wash of colour on a tile, for example.

For Trudi and Jason, Lisa suggests a bathroom floor option for each look. A porcelain natural stone tile in large-format 300mm x 600mm size will create a more harmonious mood, while a rich charcoal hexagonal tile (shown) will add depth and impact.

1. 'Climacotto' hexagon tiles in Grigio Cielo, \$280/sqm, Di Lorenzo Tiles, (02) 8818 2999
2. 'Spacecote' low sheen acrylic paint in Rice Cake, \$49.89/L, Resene, 1800 738 383

