



FINDER'S KEEPERS

A gem is difficult to stumble on,
but parting with one is harder still

By Donna Peters Photography by John Hollingshead

While the upstairs bathroom prides itself on seclusion, its lower-level contemporary has a free spirit.

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this luxurious terrace home is located in one of Sydney's sought-after waterfront suburbs where opulence and architecture are two peas in the same pod, yet it is not just one in a crowd of many. A former rough diamond, it has undergone a transformative journey to become the prized possession it now is.

The owners saw little they liked about the property in its original state and purchased it with plans to renovate and resell, but then the unexpected happened and the decision to put the house on the market upon completion came under review. Andrew Waller, a custom interior design specialist, worked on the project and notes that during the regeneration of the home his clients resolved to keep the house for themselves. The reason for their change of heart is easily guessed, as a quick review of the home reveals much to be admired.

Spanning three levels, the modern home is masked by the original sandstone façade that was retained and preserved for its heritage and

streetscape appeal. Behind this traditional exterior, the house has been completely rebuilt and with the new construction came a passage for fresh interiors unburdened by the restrictions suffered by many renovation projects. The owners and Waller did not waste the blank canvas and lavish interiors were designed to capitalise on the lifestyle opportunities that were available.

Glass panels and doors leave the rear of the home exposed for genuine indoor/outdoor appeal on all levels. On the ground floor a small kitchenette was installed to cater for alfresco entertaining on the backyard terrace. It was fitted with all the necessary mod cons to ensure it was well equipped for the task and to alleviate the need for trips to the main kitchen, which takes its place majestically on the first floor.

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natural light tumbles down on the streamline overhead cupboards and reflects off the large island bench at the centre of the room. Aside from this wash of light, the dual-tone design is muted and accented by stainless-steel inclusions for a contemporary edge.

The stairs to the upper level float on the kitchen's flank and lead up to the private quarters of the home, including the master bathroom. Made to be a retreat, it was designed to be a highly functional, stress-free space. To this end, the entire room was deemed to be a wet area and a linear drainage grille was installed along the main wall to guarantee adequate water drainage at all times. With such matters addressed, the bathroom was able to be a truly indulgent haven featuring high-quality fittings and materials, such as honed stone tiles with grain detail.

A second bathroom boasting the same material palette can be found on the ground floor, yet the mood is of a different tone and nature. While the upstairs bathroom prides itself on seclusion, its lower-level contemporary has a free spirit. Conceived as an 'outdoor' shower, it benefits from the linear skylight and a vertical window and offers the feeling of showering under the sky. But despite this whimsical charm it, too, is a well-organised space, with storage concealed within the wall behind the mirror — another trait it shares with the main bathroom.

Such divine rooms are not easily come across. Luckily, the owners of this unique luxury home realised what they had before it was too late and decided it was simply too precious to give away. **LKB**



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