

Dream Home

From Paris with love

A trip to France inspired the rejuvenation of this Paddington terrace – and all for less than \$100,000, writes **Jane Burton Taylor**.



C'est chic ... (left) the dark stain on the back deck is the same as the one used on the floorboards inside; (right) modern touches complement the old features of the house. Photos: Quentin Jones

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Sha Sha Barclay and her husband, Simon Field, had been thinking about moving for a while. They were wondering about a smaller, more contemporary home but were torn. Nothing they looked at was quite right and they basically loved the area they were already living in.

"We loved the position," Barclay says. "We loved our neighbours. It was a lovely vibe. I could walk the dog in the park just up the road. We have been here 15 years."

It was on a working trip to Paris for her company, Oasis Homewares, that she had her epiphany. The couple were staying in a boutique hotel when she realised they could achieve a similar look and feel in their terrace house back in Paddington.

"I said, 'I am going to do something like this – dark floor, white walls, white furnishings,'" she says. "That is how it started."

THE PLAN

Back home, she called interior architect Andrew Waller and shared her ideas and a wad of tear sheets from French magazines. Waller's brief was to come up with a design that would address the essentials – a tired deck and bathroom – and simultaneously breathe new life into the house.

"We didn't want to start again," Barclay says. "We loved all the old cornices and historic details but we wanted to mix them with the new. We wanted to keep the character of the Paddington terrace but make it funky. We said to Andrew, 'This is how much you have got to spend, not much money, less than \$100,000, what can you do?'"

Waller went away and came back with a design that dealt with the immediate

▶ COSTS	\$
▶ Bathroom appliances and fittings	\$11,000
▶ Tiles	\$3500
▶ Labour and joinery	\$16,500
▶ Laundry works	\$2000
▶ Skylight and louvre windows	\$8500
▶ Floor sanding and stain	\$5500
▶ Stair repairs, timber framing and glass balustrade	\$14,000
▶ Interior paints	\$7500
▶ Exterior paint	\$8500
▶ General repairs	\$4500
▶ Electrical and feature lights	\$4000
▶ Design fee	\$13,000
TOTAL	\$98,500

problems and added light and a completely new look. His key idea was to transform the staircase into a light well. He retained the original stairs, added a skylight and replaced timber balustrades with thick blades of frameless glass secured by stainless-steel bolts.

"The skylight combined with the glass balustrades let us get light right down through all the three levels of the terrace," Waller says.

CITY OF LIGHT

As well as letting light flood into the heart of the building, the feature is a unifying contemporary element because the staircase, with its twin-blade glass balustrade, is replicated on every floor.

THE AIM

To update the bathroom, bring light into centre of the plan and update throughout.

TIMEFRAME

One month to plan, four months to build.

GREEN POINTS

- ▶ Introducing natural light through the skylight.
- ▶ Option to vent hot air through operable skylight in summer.

- ▶ Retaining and reusing as many of the original features as possible.
- ▶ Cross ventilation.

OWNERS' FAVOURITE FEATURES

The view through the stairwell.

INSIDERS' TIPS

Be realistic about the budget up front.

INTERIOR ARCHITECT

Andrew Waller Design 0422 992 676.