

WITH SEPTEMBER ISSUE

DECOR

WIN
\$10,000 OF
DESIGNER
DESIRABLES

LIFESTYLES
OF THE
CHIC AND
FAMOUS

BIG
IDEAS
FOR

SMALL
SPACES

WIN
ON'S
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ATE SALE



Sydney architect Keith Glover, along with partner Trudi Scrymgour, were the design brains behind converting a poky 1940s North Bondi semi into a light, functional and desirable abode. Typical of the semi-detached houses of this era, the existing floorplan consisted of a long, narrow layout with a corridor extending the entire length of the home. The rooms were completely separated, with no interaction or light.

The priority, says Glover, was to replace the outdated kitchen and bathroom and open up the living space to the glorious sun-drenched views of the beach. "Our design brief from the owner was to create, in essence, one space," he explains, "and within this space, a service core consisting of a kitchen and bathroom located centrally to the bedrooms and living space. Pulled away from the external walls of the house, space and light would freely flow around it. Hence, the kitchen and bathroom were opened up within a free-standing 'box' of interlocking L-shapes that would lend the entire house a feeling of spaciousness."

One side of the "box", facing the living and dining areas, now cleverly houses the storage and flow-over area for the kitchen, which can be neatly closed off and separated from the main space by sleek polyurethane sliding doors.

On the opposite side of the box – facing away from the central living area – is the bathroom. Following the client's request, it comprises both a "private zone" – toilet and washbasin – and a "wet zone". The shower is literally within the corridor space behind the "box" and can be closed off for privacy behind full-height opaque glass doors.

To achieve flexibility and functionality within a confined space, Glover and Scrymgour used a natural palette of materials and colours throughout the home to provide a soothing, relaxed and design-conscious environment. Carrara marble benchtops complete with a white vitrolite glass splashback and stainless steel dishwasher are all used in harmony within the kitchen, to great effect. Vitrified mosaic tiles line the walls and floors of the bathroom which contrast sharply with the full-height, semi-translucent glass doors. A mirror reflecting light expands the space, giving it a clean, serene atmosphere.

A lean-to at the rear of the home was demolished to lengthen the living area and a balcony added. Bi-fold doors disappear to allow the living space to flow outwards and continue on to the slatted timber deck. "But most importantly," stresses Glover, "fine stainless steel wire and a galvanised balustrade was chosen so as not to distract or obscure the views of one of the finest city beaches in the Southern Hemisphere!"

Jeanne Ryckmans

TIPS TO TAKE AWAY

Now you see it – sliding doors are the perfect solution for hiding a messy kitchen.

Down to earth – natural, earthy colours will create the illusion of more space.

Light up – recessed lighting is a discreet way to illuminate your home.

High wire – sleek stainless steel wire strung along a balcony provides security, without hindering the view.

No limits – clear glass doors leading onto a deck merge outdoor and indoor living areas.





This page, clockwise from top: the "box" containing the kitchen and bathroom area can be closed off from the dining and living area by sliding doors; the furnishings are kept neat and simple to lend a feeling of spaciousness; glass hi-fold balcony doors give lounge lizards a view of the beach. Facing page, from top: the bathroom is separated into "dry" and "wet" zones. The open shower area can be closed off for privacy or left open for exhibitionists; a natural palette was applied to both the furnishings and the finishes.