

Moving Up

As with so many families who are established in an area, Mark and Bernadette made the decision to extend and renovate rather than move when their family started to outgrow their three-bedroom Californian bungalow in the Melbourne suburbs.

With the creation of space as the main priority and limited land area as the major challenge, it made perfect sense to add an upper floor.

They enlisted Craig Hille of Hille's Home Extensions, who undertook the extensive project that resulted in a new first floor comprising three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a gallery. The first floor addition allowed Hilles to expand the downstairs area, enlarging the living room and transforming two of the former bedrooms into living areas – one for the kids, one for the adults.

The downstairs renovation involved the demolition of two internal walls to create a space for the stairway leading to the first floor addition. Due to the placement of the stairway, Hilles also needed to relocate one of the original windows – in what was previously the bedroom – into the newly enlarged living area.

The extra space created downstairs has resulted in a truly open-plan living area where the kitchen, dining and living areas flow to the outdoor deck. Located off the living area, the bathroom – previously the only one in the house – was retained, now acting as a guest bathroom.

The upstairs addition is well appointed and stylishly finished. The master bedroom features a luxurious walk-in robe and a simple but sophisticated ensuite. Two large bedrooms to the rear of the addition feature built-in robes and large windows overlooking the back garden. A linen closet as well as a separate bathroom with both bath and shower is also located upstairs. Natural light flows into both upstairs bathrooms through the Velux roof-windows.

Hilles has maintained the distinctive style of the bungalow in the finishes both internally and externally. The first-floor addition flows beautifully from the existing downstairs structure thanks to Hilles' attention to detail and continuity of design style.

“Because of the detailing outside, the addition sits perfectly with the bottom section of the house.”

Thanks to the clever addition, the family can now stay in the neighbourhood they so love without having to compromise on space or quality of lifestyle.

There is, however, one drawback for Bernadette. “We now have all this great space,” she says, “but I have two extra bathrooms to clean!”

Published with permission from completehome.com.au, everything you need to complete your home.

Before:
Ground floor – three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining, bathroom, laundry

After:
Ground floor – two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining, bathroom, laundry
First floor – master bedroom with ensuite and walk in robes, two bedrooms, bathroom with toilet, gallery



1. Before work commenced
2. After, perfectly in keeping with the period look
3. Gallery at the top of the stairs
4. Staircase linking to new upstairs rooms
5. Upstairs bathroom
6. Master bedroom