



Trellis and vines are integral to the home's climate control

Inside out

How a garden shaped a home renovation. Story by Robin Barton

Since renovating their house, Janelle and Tom Adams are not only watching their two young children grow. When the couple commissioned architect Mick Hellen of aardvarc to design an extension to the back of their 1950s house in Holland Park, they had an important question for him: "how do we overcome this blazing Queensland sun?"

His bold, green solution was to encase a two-storey extension to the rear of the house in a trellis over which deciduous vines would climb, re-using as many materials as possible from the demolished part of the existing house. "In the summer, the vines get dense and the leaves shade the structure and create an air barrier against the wall," explains Hellen. "In the winter the leaves are off so more sun hits the wall."

Fortunately, the Adams' were adventurous enough to run with the idea. When their extension was complete, the family planted four varieties of vine and Trellis House began

to take shape around them.

Rewind to the start of the six-month build (by Peterbuilt) and the Adams family's two-bedroom house was about to expand to include a new open-plan living room, a spacious kitchen and dining room downstairs, and a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom upstairs. "We chose to renovate rather than knock everything down as we didn't like the idea of bulldozing and dumping good materials that just needed a new lease on life," says Janelle. "When the build started, everything that came off the house was kept and stored. There was so much timber!"

A key requirement was that the extension embraced the outside: "You can have a big space in a small house if you blur the inside and the outside - it gets you to interact with nature," says Hellen. He brought the ground floor level down to the yard outside and the existing decking was taken up. This decking was to play a starring role in the house's

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