



FAMILY FRIENDLY

A 1920s villa in Adelaide is opened up to create a **relaxed, casual & spacious** family & entertaining zone

Cool finish

Homeowner David Cripps takes time out with his daughter Claudia in the new-look living area of their renovated villa. The character-filled concrete floor at the rear of the house was already there, covered by dark slate tiles that were removed during the renos. The black letters, part of a Holden dealership sign, are from One Small Room, and sit atop a sideboard from Retromodern. →





Clean & character-filled

The new bespoke kitchen, from Alby Turner & Son, features an island Silestone benchtop that doesn't mark, Helen says. "Seriously, everything – including tea, red wine and food colouring – wipes off." The trio of Muuto "MHY" pendant lamps adds character to the space. The newly combined kitchen, living and dining area is large enough for entertaining, but still cosy enough for the three family members.

*vintage chairs updated
with Mokum fabric*

who lives here?

Helen Sheppard with her partner David Cripps and their daughter Claudia, 6. Plus, the family cat, Milly

1 Renovation timeframe Six months: three months for essential works and three months to finish.

2 Green aspects "We have 36,000 litres of rainwater storage, which is plumbed into the house and garden," Helen says. "The garden is, apart from a few vegies and a lawn for Claudia, a Mediterranean garden so it doesn't need much water. The angle of the rear pergola is solar passive so it lets the sun in during winter and keeps it out during the summer. And we have double-glazed rear doors and windows."

3 Neutral territory "We'd experimented with lots of bright, strong colours in our previous house and while we love them, the neutral palette makes our home feel calm and peaceful," Helen says.

4 Fave features David loves the David Trubridge wall light above the sideboard, especially when it's switched on at night. "It turns our entire wall into art, with strong geometric patterns created by the shadows cast by the shade," he says. "I sometimes feel that I am gazing at a massive stylised sunflower!" Helen loves the light and the space in the back of the house, and the "effortless flow" to the outside. She also enjoys the sanctuary-like feel of the house. "I adore coming home, and feel relaxed the moment I walk in."

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN you love your neighbourhood, but have outgrown your home? You either expand your existing place or keep your fingers crossed there's something more suitable for sale nearby. Helen Sheppard and David Cripps, with their daughter Claudia, were about to do a massive renovation on their home in Croydon, Adelaide, when they spotted this house for sale just five blocks away. "We loved that it was a villa, with a return verandah, and still had original features," Helen recalls.

Although the 1920s house had been extended in the 1980s – so Helen and David didn't have to move exterior walls – a renovation was still needed, although much smaller than the one they would have done in their former home. While the front part of the three-bedroom villa simply required a paint job and a floorboard revamp, the back

section was a different story – the hemmed-in kitchen, living and dining area, and the bathroom, all needed work. "The living space had maroon paint, dark slate flooring and a stained-pine bar," Helen says. "The back wall had two sets of small windows and wooden double doors. It was a big space but it was really dark and claustrophobic."

With help from architect/project manager Tim Cichero and his interior designer wife Rebekah Cichero, plus Jigsaw Construction builders, the back of the house was transformed into a glorious, light-filled and spacious open-plan kitchen, dining and living room, and the bathroom enlarged and updated. Three walls were either removed, partly removed or repositioned to open the kitchen to the living and dining space, to allow for more light, and to expand the bathroom. "Simply cutting the wall out under the existing windows in the living →



Time to linger

The hallway was painted in subtle tones, making it feel more spacious. "We wanted a welcoming space that starts to tell the story of the house, and that people want to pause in," Helen says.



Grey & groovy

A 1970s pendant hangs in the master bedroom, which also features a cool industrial cabinet transformed into a bedside table.




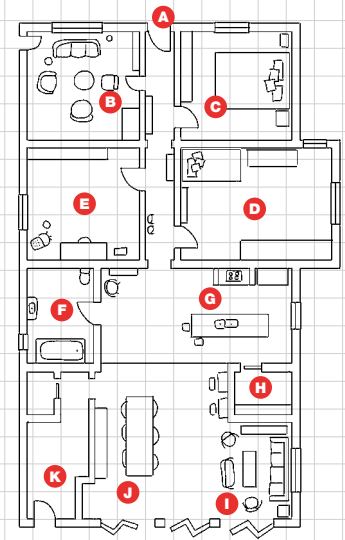
Preloved & leisurely

A comfy sofa, long enough for two people to stretch out at either end, is positioned at one end of the living space, along with an old bench and suitcase. "We enjoy using things that have been loved and cared for by others, or that have had a different use," Helen says.

area and replacing the solid double doors with glass, painting the walls and pulling up the slate made a massive difference," Helen says. "The floor got quite damaged when the tiles were removed," she adds. "The holes were first filled with a revolting grey cement, so we took that up, and now we really like having a floor that you can look down into. We even put a lock of Claudia's hair in the deepest hole."

The entire interior was repainted in soothing neutrals including Porter's Paints "Milk", Popcorn, and Flax. Concrete under the slate tiles was resurfaced, and timber floors were resanded and stained a darker shade, providing a lovely contrast to the pale walls. Fabulous lighting was the finishing touch to the interior. "It makes such a difference to the feel of the house," Helen says.

But, outside, the garden was a mess. "There were endless red clay pavers and falling-down pergola structures everywhere," Helen says. Enter Peter Adley, from Yardstick Garden Design, who designed a curvy deck, roof and pergola, and a new back garden featuring citrus, magnolia, dwarf pomegranates and wisteria, as well as lawn for Claudia and her trampoline. "Pete contrasted plant foliage, colour, shape and size perfectly, which means it's always a lovely garden to look at and to live in," Helen says. Claudia agrees: "I like eating meals on the back deck because we have a really pretty garden." David, Helen and Claudia were already settled in their neighbourhood, but now they're well and truly at home! 



KEY

- A** Entrance
- B** Lounge
- C** Master bedroom
- D** Bedroom
- E** Office
- F** Bathroom
- G** Kitchen
- H** Pantry
- I** Living area
- J** Dining
- K** Back entrance

Creative customising

Claudia's craft zone is a 1960s Danish wall unit that has been customised with new mounting strips from Bunnings. The original house ended at the step (see left of picture), making the raised section a "stage" for impromptu performances by Claudia and her friends.

Out the back

The original garden was a mess, but it has been transformed into an outdoor room and beautiful oasis. The funky grey pendants came from a bowling club.

Embroidered elegance

Caterina cotton-sateen cushion in Beige, \$39.95, Kas Australia.

HELEN MOODBOARD A neutral palette with elements of vintage, retro & cool lighting

A

FINISHES

DOORS Laminex "ColourTech" in Ash White (A), \$75 a standard door. **FLOORING** Laminex "Colour Palette" in Wild Birch (B), from about \$86 a sq m uninstalled. **BENCHTOPS** Caesarstone in Osprey (C), from \$550 a sq m installed. **FABRIC** Bargello in Marcasite (D), \$163.90 a m, Mokum. For stockists, see page 176.

B

C

Initialise...
Zinc alphabet letters,
\$45 each, Ici Et Là.
21cm x 14cm.

PAINTS

INTERIOR Taubmans Endure Interior Walls in Chalk Wash Quarter, \$66.90 for 4L.

EXTERIOR Taubmans Endure Exterior in Ship Grey, \$66.90 for 4L.

CHALK WASH QUARTER

SHIP GREY

Vintage value

Foto pendant lamp in Dark Grey (50cm), \$59, Ikea.

Light fantastic

David Trubridge "Flax" Wall Mounted lightshade in Natural Bamboo Ply, \$1100, Tongue+Groove. 80cm diameter.

Buttons & piping

Florence bedhead in Beachcomber Sable, \$949 for queen, BedNest. Lots of different fabrics to choose from.

Amp it up

Replica Tolomeo Mega floor lamp, \$245, Replica Furniture. Cantilevered arm.

Style & comfort

Replica Peacock chair in Natural, \$695, Clickon Furniture.



Helen found strong marine hinges for the kitchen cupboards online