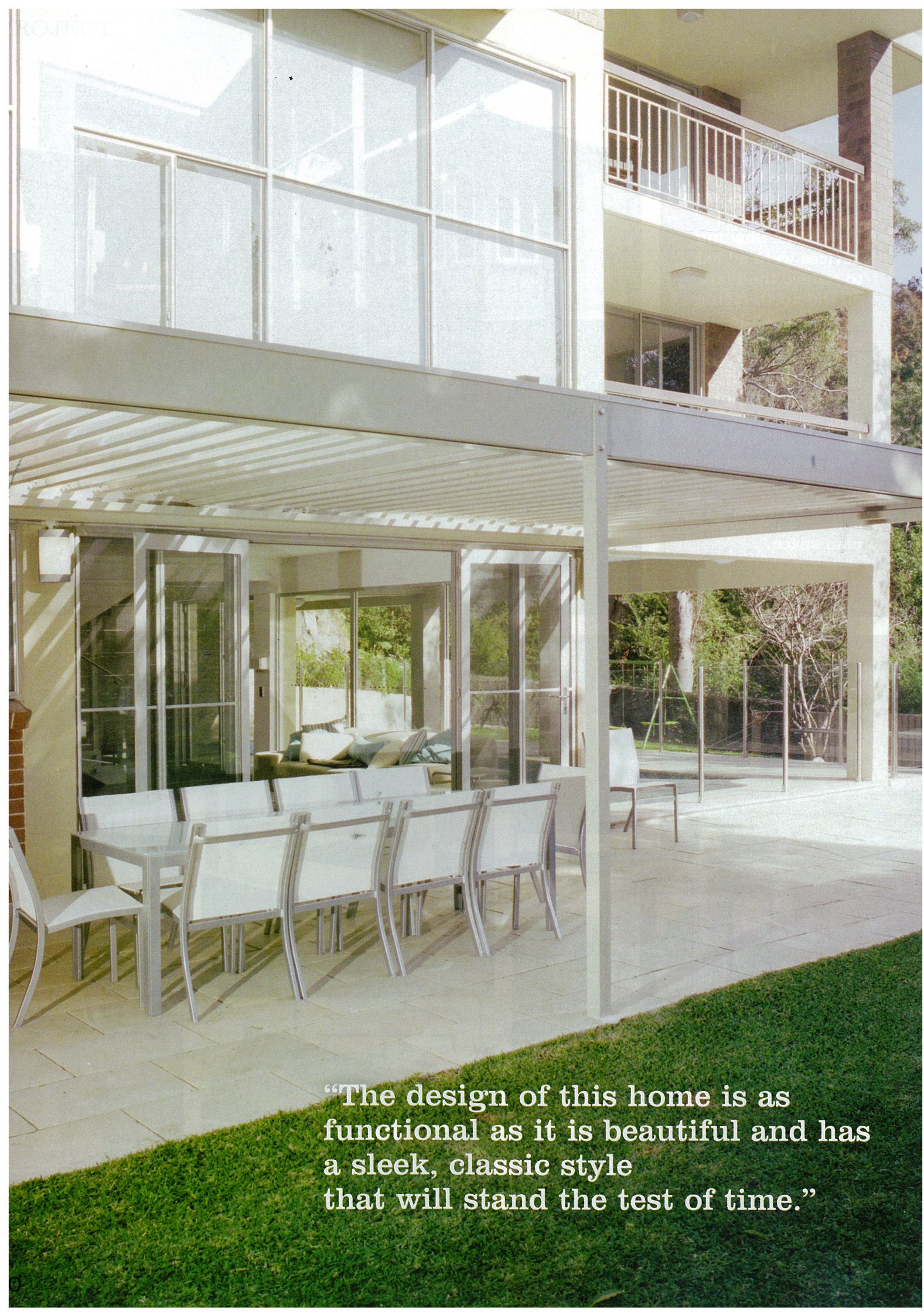




“The design of this home is as functional as it is beautiful and has a sleek, classic style that will stand the test of time.”

Living large

Words by Suni Golightly Photography by Glyn Thomas

A monumental Sydney home is given a new lease on life.

ARCHITECT STEPHEN GRAY had his work cut out for him when he took on the renovation of this huge four-storey home in Sydney's Roseville Chase. The house, built in the 1970s, featured the unusual combination of concrete post and slabs with brick infill panels. It's located on a large, rocky block with an exceptionally steep drop on the western edge of the site. Although the house was generally in good condition, it needed substantial updating.

Included in the new work was a modern kitchen and casual dining area flowing out to the covered patio and existing covered pool area; a bar and wine cellar with a snooker table; improved balcony access; the creation of a large entertainment area that includes a projection screen for use as a home theatre system; and a renovated shower room, main bedroom ensuite and new walk-in robe. The pool and spa were also extensively refurbished.

The clients wanted the new works to better address and improve flow from indoor to outdoor areas, as well as maximise the potential of the large first floor area, so a new kitchen, powder room and casual dining area were designed for the lower ground level, with direct access to the new outdoor entertaining area.

The existing pool was fully refurbished to include new surface tiling, semi-frameless glass balustrade and a louvred wall between the spa and the internal spaces. New vinyl flooring in a faux timber finish was laid in the kitchen and casual dining areas. Internal walls were removed from the first floor to allow for a more flexible and open entertainment and living space. The bathroom was relocated and organised to allow better light penetration and ventilation to the northern façade and to provide direct access to the adjoining existing balcony. The spaces were designed to accommodate a billiard table and lounge seating, and extensive shelving was incorporated to provide storage for books along the southern wall of the room, with an integrated fireplace.

The existing internal timber panelling was replaced with new gyprock lining to modernise the interior and provide continuity within the spaces, and the existing balustrade on the internal stair was removed to allow for a new glass balustrade with stainless-steel fixings and handrail, continuing the contemporary look and feel of the interior spaces.

According to Gray, "Due to council restrictions on increasing the envelope of the existing building, we had to focus on maximising the potential to create new spaces within the existing footprint. We had to address the clients' brief to enhance the functionality of these new internal spaces and the existing spaces on the upper levels, as well as the areas the new work addressed externally."

For inspiration for his concept, Gray didn't need to look too far. The site enjoys spectacular views of surrounding parkland.

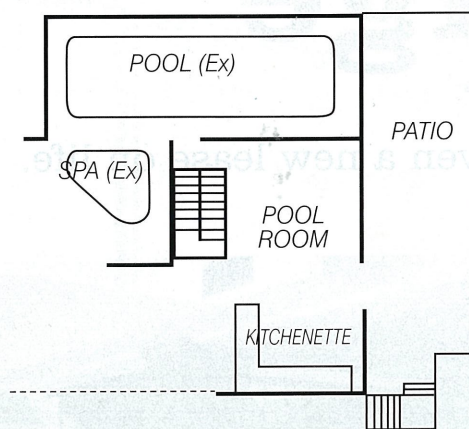


"The beauty of the adjacent national park and the vistas gained from the property was important in refocusing the house and creating a balance between the indoor/outdoor flow of the pool, kitchen and casual dining area, the reflective viewing space of the ensuite, and the more internal and inward-focused nature of the entertainment/reading room," he says. This site, while offering wonderful views, also created challenges for the project. "The site and its general access both by vehicles and on foot was very difficult for the builder," Gray continues, "but his excellent site management and smart use of cranes in the building program made bringing items onto and taking items away from the site as smooth as possible."

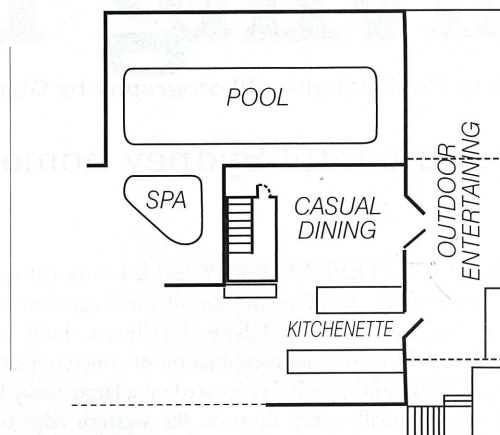
Whatever challenges were faced by architect and builder, the project has produced spectacular results. The living spaces look sleek and clean, with huge expanses of white the perfect canvas for the owners' designer furniture. The wall of books adds a human element to the space, bringing a feel of warmth and comfort. The kitchen is simple, functional and large, and the stylish bar puts to rest any thoughts of the wood-panelled bars of the past. With a keen eye and skilled hand, Gary has brought scale and humanity to this monolithic space. The design is as functional as it is beautiful, and has a sleek classic style that will stand the test of time.

"This project offered a lot of challenges not part of a typical reno," Gray continues. "It also had a significant interior design and refurbishment component. The project was about trying to make the most of the ideas and building envelope that the original design tried to convey or contain but didn't execute particularly well. I like the macro and micro environments that simultaneously surround you and can be seen from the bar. From there you look northwards over the billiard table through the new balcony doors to the surrounding bush; you view the new glass balustrade that enfolds the four-storey stairway; you look eastwards past the enormous bookcase, through the home theatre space to the bush vista; and you enjoy the intimacy of the fireplace and bar inserted in the corner of the room." **r&e**

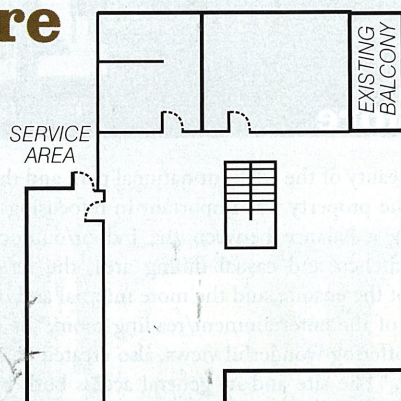
Before



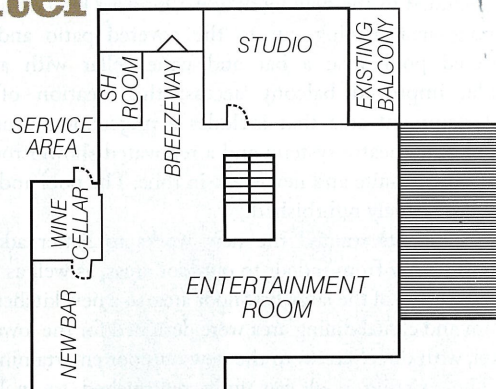
After



Before



After



Project particulars

The project was designed by **MELONIE BAYL-SMITH** of **LIQUID ARCHITECTURE**, Suite 105, 8 Clarke Street, Crows Nest NSW 2065. Phone: (02) 9437 4759 or 0425 264 283, email: mbs@liquidarchitecture.com.au, or go to www.liquidarchitecture.com.au. The project was built by Stuart Wilson, Master Builder. Phone: 0412 559 777. The kitchen and joinery by Mona Vale Kitchens.

FLOORING Kitchen/Casual Dining: 'Mahogany' Vinyl boards flooring — Amtico
Entertainment Room, Bedroom + WIR: Feltex Carpet 'Montozza'
Stair: Cavalier Bremworth Carpet — 'Brunswick'
Bar, Shower Room + Ensuite: Tiles — Tile Solutions Northbridge
Pool coping and deck: Himalayan Sandstone
Pool tiles: Glass mosaic tiles — Ezarri

WALLS Kitchen/Casual Dining: Dulux 'White Watsonia' half strength
Entertainment Room: Dulux 'Santa's Beard' (main colour)
Shower Room + Ensuite: Tiles — Tile Solutions Northbridge
WIR: Dulux 'Napkin White' quarter strength
Main Bedroom: Porter's 'Nougat'
Pool: Tiled feature wall
External: brickwork

KITCHEN Benchtop: CaesarStone 'Raw Silk'
Splashback: Deco Glaze Colorbacked glass — Dulux 'Salt Spray'

Appliances: Maytag refrigerator, Miele appliances, Oliveri sink
BAR CaesarStone — 'Mink'

Tiles: Artedomus 'Morato Anticated' wax coated tiles to bar front
Splashback: Deco Glaze Colorbacked glass 'Gold Rush' metallic
Appliances: Fisher & Paykel appliances, Everhard 'Vogue' sink
BOOKSHELF and JOINERY Dulux 'Santa's Beard'
ENSUITE Vanity: CaesarStone vanity top — 'Snow'

Bath: Kaldewei 'Centroform'
Tiles: Tiled feature wall — 'Quartz' 150mm x 600mm tiles

SHOWER ROOM Vanity top: CaesarStone 'Mink'
SANITARY FIXTURES and BATHROOM FITTINGS Supplied by WC Bath + Shower, Chatswood (02) 9413 3999

LIGHTING Pendant lights from ECC

WINDOWS and EXTERNAL DOORS Airlite anodised commercial section aluminum

OUTDOOR "Vergola" sensor-controlled adjustable louvred pergola system over patio area

ADDITIONAL DETAILS Home theatre system from Len Wallis Audio (02) 9427 6755

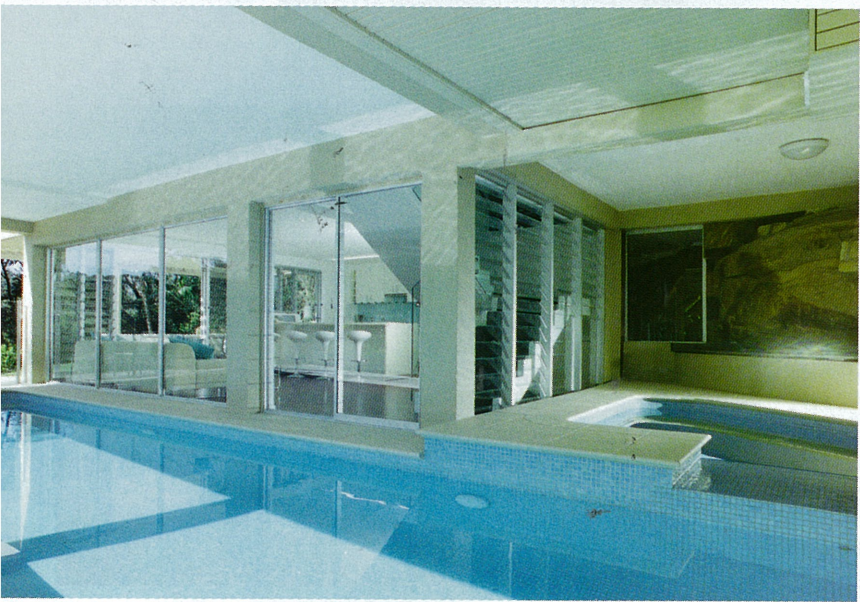
Fireplace from Jetmaster

Cabinetry and door furniture from Halliday + Baillie (02) 9699 3330

Glass and stainless-steel balustrading from Elite Balustrades

Bordex wine racks from Cellar Fitout

Heated towel rail from Hydrotherm



Architect Melonie Bayl-Smith



Internal walls were removed from the first floor to allow for a more flexible and open entertainment and living space. The existing pool was fully refurbished to include new pool surface tiling, semi-frameless glass balustrade and a louvred wall between the spa and the internal spaces.