



PP 349157/00509

# (inside)

australian design review

Last week I was speaking to a friend of mine who is planning to renovate his country house. The excitement and passion for the project were palpable. Plans have been drawn and submitted to council and all that remains is to receive the all-important rubber stamp. Listening to him describe the impending makeover in detail made me a little envious. Daydreaming, I could almost see myself luxuriating in the egg bath of my extended bathroom or making my favourite meal for friends in my new state-of-the-art, gourmet kitchen and so I began to consider the changing patterns of home ownership over the last few decades. Once house hopping, buying, selling, upsizing and moving suburbs were the norm. Now it seems, it's find the house or apartment you love and renovate, add, alter and makeover to suit our ever changing lifestyles. With home ownership at almost 70 percent nationally and house prices flat, taking the entrepreneurial hunger out of the buying and selling, people are working a lot more with what they've got. This then seems an appropriate time to focus in this issue of (inside) on renovations, albeit some very special ones.

In Brisbane, Douglas Neale visits Balmoral House (page 62) to see how one family has renovated to combine home life and an office area for an established author. Subtle design and a subdued colour palette have transformed this Queenslander into a charming home for a lively family. In Sydney Gillian Serisier enjoys her visit to the award-winning Chatswood House (page 68) where the architects have designed an open plan, multi-purpose house that can adapt to every possible use for the modern family; even the garage doubles as a roller skating rink. Lou Weis takes us on a tour of Hopetoun House in Melbourne (page 74), formerly a small Edwardian home, now owned by an artist. The architect's brief was to incorporate a separate studio area for the artist and this has been achieved with skill and sensitivity.

Close to Zurich, Jeanne Tan visits a most surprising home, Haus Gross (page 80). Thinking outside the square the architects have completed an extension underground. There is no permit needed for subterranean renovations it seems and what was once an ordinary suburban house has been transformed into a beacon of style for the neighbourhood. The home is not the only place to undergo radical renovation in this issue. We feature

two workplaces that break the mould when it comes to the stereotypical work environment in which most of us spend our waking hours. The Google offices in Zurich are by any standard a revolution in the art of work as play. Bold colours and playful themes are de rigueur as Google employees choose to kick back and relax in the aquarium lounge, play snooker in one of the many breakout areas or book a massage after a dip in the spa.

Back in Melbourne we walk through the green door of the ANZ Learning and Breakout Centre (page 56) and, as if transported to Oz, find ourselves in another world. Using a creative floor plan, innovative decoration and iconic furniture pieces, this workplace stands head and shoulders above the norm.

With this issue we have (almost) come to the end of IDEA08 for this year and what a last hurrah it has been. We have received a record number of submissions for the year and in turn the largest amount of short listed projects in the history of the IDEA Awards. One category remains open, however, and that is the Designer of the Year. A few more weeks remain in which to cast your vote for your favourite Australia-based designer or design company, go to <http://www.idea-awards.com.au/vote-for-the-designer-of-the-year/> to make your voice heard and be a part of IDEA08.

This year in the lead-up to the IDEA Awards party (inside) will be hosting a week of seminars, workshops and film nights. We will also present an exhibition of all the short listed entrants and past winners. It will be a week full of events not to be missed, for more information go to <http://www.idea-awards.com.au/>.

All of you who experienced the sensational IDEA Awards party on Cockatoo Island, Sydney in 2007 will no doubt be anticipating this year's event. The theme is to be 'Le Bal Chinois' and the setting will be La Grande Dame herself, the Melbourne Town Hall. 'Le Bal Chinois' will reflect the diverse style and romance of Shanghai in the 1920s, combining the flavour of the exotic East and the glamour of the West. So, mark Friday 14 November in your diary and book early as numbers are limited. It will be a night to remember and I look forward to catching up with you then.

See you at the party.

Jan Henderson Rake  
Deputy editor