

This formerly dilapidated kitchen was in a lean-to extension on the rear of the original cottage. “It was perfect for demolition and not much else,” says Mikayla Rose, director and principal designer of Heartly. The bathrooms were small, poorly configured and damp. After teaming up with Crisp Green Homes, what ensued was a complete restoration of the front facade, renovation of remaining front rooms, ground-floor extension and first-floor addition. “At the initial meeting, the clients presented us with a scrapbook collection of interiors they loved and many of the reference images they had collected over the years belonged to us. Their accompanying instructions were ‘just do whatever you think,’” says Mikayla, adding “Aww, we were chuffed!”

WHERE THE heart is

Light, warmth and connectivity
rule in this kitchen renovation

PHOTOGRAPHY JACK LOVEL



Consistent elements throughout this collection of images were light, warmth, comfort, simplicity and connectivity of space. These became guiding parameters for the renovation and extension of Fairfield House. “Our clients wanted a contemporary yet timeless palette,” continues Mikayla. White, coupled with other neutral colours and a carefully balanced and layered variation in materials (oak, concrete, stone, steel and glass), creates a calming, uncluttered atmosphere.

The opportunity to build on the boundary allowed a mud room to be added to the front of the house in a contemporary lean-to-style extension. This structure serves multiple purposes including storage, natural light provision to the entry via a sky window, and an anchor point for a substantial lightwell,

allowing daylight and fresh air to flood the centre of the home.

The design capitalises on opportunities presented by the site and existing dwelling including expansive access to northern light and restoration of existing character features of the cottage. A generous study nook and elongated window are tucked into a corner created by the kitchen. The design creates communal areas to gather and socialise as well as spaces for privacy, rest and work.

“The transition from the original home through to the new, more contemporary spaces has been achieved with grace, through a refined palette and careful consideration of natural light,” says Mikayla.

The inclusion of ample kitchen storage within tall joinery and the walk-in pantry

allowed the rear wall of the kitchen to remain uncluttered and the ceiling-high marble to be the commanding feature of not only the kitchen but the entire open-plan living area. The honed natural stone is a masterpiece in itself, drawing the eye and conversation of visitors. Placed directly opposite the north-facing floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors, the two vast and contrasting material elements combine to create a dramatic impact in the large communal space.

Design of the interior capitalises on opportunities presented by the site and existing dwelling, including expansive access to northern light and restoration of existing character features of the cottage. A collection of energy-efficient design elements is achieved, including windows with thermally broken frames and double glazing, thermal mass within the concrete slab, and engineered timber flooring sourced from sustainable sources.

This renovation included a few luxurious splurges. “Custom windows on the sloping roof were the biggest splurge and one of the great successes,” says Mikayla. “In the kitchen it was the ceiling-high Elba marble. I love the calming simplicity of the design,” she continues. “The natural stone is the real show stopper, with the other materials gently playing a complementary role. However, knowing how much the space is enjoyed by our clients is what I love most about it.”

📍 heartly.com.au; crispgreenhomes.com

