Heritage homes, like people, need some TLC from time to time. This Sydney house needed just that; it was largely unmodernised with only some basic modifications and additions made about 30 years earlier.

The terrace house was also in need of maintenance and refurbishment. A number of the original features were in good condition but parts of the house were decrepit, such as the rotting, upstairs ceiling.

A wander about the neighbourhood, which features many homes of a similar vintage, showed just what could be done. Seeing their home’s potential, the owners wanted to convert the dark, gloomy interior into a warm, light space with a mix of contemporary and traditional styling. A number of the main living areas were pokey and impractical and it was important to open up these spaces and connect the inside and outside spaces.

The heritage status of the house was a major factor in the design of the renovations. It was important to retain a number of the heritage features, both inside and out, including ornamental features such as the arch in the hallway and the fireplaces to maintain the heritage flavour.
period character,” said architect Melonie Bayl-Smith of Liquid Architecture.

While the front half of the dwelling was retained and refurbished to maintain the heritage flavour of the interior, the rear was demolished to create a bright, airy and contemporary extension with a clear connection to the refurbished back and side courtyards.

The owners wanted to incorporate a large dining table into their kitchen area and create a social kitchen space for family gatherings. Their pokey kitchen was modernised to incorporate bold splashes of colour (in the form of a brilliant red splashback) and an open-plan meals area. This leads out to two leafy courtyards, accessed via aluminium and glass bi-fold doors, which flood the space with air and light, as do highlight windows.

“The seamless connection of the kitchen, dining and courtyards allows you to feel like you are living in the gardens and courtyard... The kitchen is a lively space that is the heart of the house,” Melonie said. “The kitchen is a lively space that is the heart of the house. I also love the cosy yet highly functional study nook which has great direct sunlight in the mornings.”

Upstairs, the master bedroom suite was relocated to the rear, extending into the small side addition to incorporate an ensuite bathroom.

“My inspiration for the design was the 5-6m high sheer rock face that forms the rear boundary of the property. It provided something to respond to, as well as the two-storey form of the original terrace. The Terracade is a contemporary response to the face brickwork of the heritage dwellings in the area,” said Melonie. “Because of the constraints of the narrow site, the floor plan had to work very hard to do everything it needed to do. I think this created a disciplined design approach that resulted in a highly refined addition and internal plan layout. Materials are warm, textured and yet still allow the dwelling to retain a contemporary edge. The design works beautifully and the clients love it,” she stated.
Because of the constraints of the narrow site, the floorplan had to work very hard to do everything it needed to do.

### Walls
- External walls: Austral Terracade T1 in Terracotta New brickwork was built from recycled bricks from the demolition and alterations
- Existing brickwork repaired and repointed
- Kitchen: Dulux Fair Bianca half strength
- Kitchen: Decoglaze splashback
- Dining: Glass bi-fold doors
- Living: Dulux Fair Bianca
- Bedroom: Dulux Natural White double strength
- Other: Timberwork — Dulux White Watsonia

### Kitchen
- Benchtop: CaesarStone Mangrove
- Splashback: Decoglaze glass splashback
- Cabinetry: Hog Bristle
- Other: Kleenmaid appliances
- Sanitary fixtures + bathroom fittings
  - Parisi basins
  - Villeroy and Boch Subway WC

### Lighting
- External lights, pendant lights and track lighting from Light Up Willoughby
- Windows + external doors
  - Timber-framed windows for original portion of the dwelling
  - Anodised aluminium semi-commercial framed bi-folding and French doors and louvred window/doorlights
- Original solid timber front door was reglazed and refurbished, including new door handles by Chant NZ
- Door handles from Stylish

### Outdoor
- Soft landscaping designed and undertaken by the builder
- Slatted screens and fences designed in conjunction with the builder using different-sized timbers
- Pavers from Eco-Concepts (paver now discontinued)

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**Before**

**After**

It was important to retain as many of the heritage features including the fireplaces to maintain the period character.

Thecosy yet fully functional study nook has great direct sunlight in the mornings.