



# Harmonious home

BY KAITLIN SHAWCROSS

**Growing families more often than not require changes to their home and living spaces, and one Nedland's family is no exception.**

In collaboration with Humphrey Homes the family was able to create a fresh, modern space to thrive in and enjoy.

The build included adding a new living area and new sleeping areas, as well as rezoning the existing building into three new zones.

"The original rear of the home had a lovely light and active living space that addressed the swimming pool and outdoor areas," Humphrey Homes Director Dean Humphrey said.

"Conversely, the front part of the home was quite small, dark and had no relationship to the garden."

The existing front bedroom and study were combined to provide a large master

suite and dressing room while the three minor bedrooms were redesigned into two larger bedrooms with a shared bathroom.

"This provided a large girl's bedroom addressing the rear garden, and a more usable guest bedroom," Mr Humphrey said.

The boys' bedrooms and living area were then accommodated upstairs to allow privacy and space from the rest of the house.

An underutilised front garden was transformed into a generous study with windows looking onto an existing frangipani tree.

Mr Humphrey said the change also helped the home gain a street presence that was originally lacking.

Finally, the original living area at the rear of the home was enclosed further to create a quiet TV space, and a new active living room at the centre of the home links all the separate zones.

"The addition is absolutely seamless," Mr Humphrey said.

"It is virtually impossible to tell what was new and what was existing.

"We even had finishing trades who had no idea about where the new work stopped and started, which is a great compliment to our whole team."

However, the work was not without its challenges.

To match the original timber flooring and create a seamless look, the team needed to identify what the unusual existing timber type was.

**We designed four sliding aluminium louvres which can be arranged easily to fill the whole opening or be pushed to one side.**

"We did a timber 'DNA' test which identified a mix of both red and grey ironbark," Mr Humphrey said.

"This in itself was amusing because our clients' names were Reddrop and Gray.

"This helped us purchase a material which was almost identical to the existing flooring."

The clients also had a vision to include a feature floating staircase in the middle of the home that would allow visual permeability from the front door right through to the rear pool and cabana area, which Humphrey Homes brought to life.

The second storey is a solid dark box that cocoons the boys' zone both literally and visually.

It sits on top of the existing house and ties in with the dark steel elements in the rear garden.

The addition is timber-framed and clad in roughly-sawn marine ply, which offers a great contrast to the modern feel of the home.



Humphrey Homes sourced clear anodised aluminium window and door frames to match the existing windows.

"We designed the upper floor addition, 'the box', with a massive horizontal window which has a 600mm-deep recess to provide visual and weather protection to the windows, and it adds great interest to the west elevation," Mr Humphrey said.

"We designed four sliding aluminium louvres which can be arranged easily to fill the whole opening or be pushed to one side.

"They also have operable louvres for control of sunlight and privacy."

Architect Helen Marchesani said the original front part of the home lacked a relationship with the materials used in the rear, but thanks to the repeated use of structural steel and glass elements, the home was now more harmonious.

"The strong lines and angles used in the original home were quite challenging when trying to integrate the new rooms," she said.

"By careful placement of the study and a realignment of the entry doors, you are now drawn into the house and can see through to the garden as you move through the house."



**+ CONTACT** Humphrey Homes  
9284 5444, [www.humphreyhomes.com.au](http://www.humphreyhomes.com.au)