

# RENOVATION ... key to better living by architect Dion Seminara

**'Too many people choose to relocate rather than making the most of where they are currently living.'**



'It's far too easy to overlook the amenity of your existing home. Having friends close by, familiar services and surroundings are all part of the appeal of where you currently live and it's not necessary to part with that when you are looking to upgrade your home space.

When you are looking to improve on your home, it's always a clever option to consider a renovation or addition to your existing home. Not only can it dramatically improve the value of the property, it is almost always possible to dramatically improve the space by applying some good architectural design.

The really exciting part about designing a renovation is that we can add such exceptional integrated living space to an existing home.

The climate in this region is perfect for creating living space



that incorporates the indoor with the outdoors so that the very best of both are available.

It's part of our service that we look very closely at that integration, to the degree that we can even provide the selection of plants in the garden.

One project my team and I have worked on recently was a 100 year old workers cottage at Woolloongabba owned by Margaret and Lyle Tweeddale. The house had been well maintained and the kitchen and bathroom areas had been modernised, but the inherent design features of that style of house remained. The spaces were small and the living areas were internal in the house, cut off from air flow and light. The back of the property, which was climatically the best aspect, was inaccessible.

In the redesigned house, all the living areas are at the back, giving access to cool breezes and lots of light. The worker's cottage look remains as you enter, but gives way to a more contemporary area built for today's way of living.

Renovation has the added benefit of dramatically increasing the value of your existing home. This means that when the time comes to move to a new location, not only have you had the benefit of the space, you also benefit financially in the medium to long term.

**Dion Seminara has been designing in Brisbane since 1984 and began practising architecture in private practice 15 years ago. He specialises in superb home renovations and additions.**

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