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Grand plans on small flat

This old granny flat is now young at heart, writes **Catherine Nikas-Boulos**

There was nothing dramatically wrong with this Chatswood granny flat but while it was neat and tidy it was certainly looking its age.

So when the previous tenants moved out, the owners thought it would be a good chance to refresh it with a lick of paint before looking for a new tenant.

But that quick-fix tin of paint was still sitting by the side of the door almost six months later. Instead, it sparked a conversation about what the property really needed and before the paint could be applied, several walls were knocked out.

Interiors By Cason's Noelene Cason took charge of the redesign, with a decision to make the granny flat completely self contained by adding a washing machine and clothes dryer — turning the quick makeover into a six-month long project.

The bathroom was the obvious place to accommodate the laundry, so the existing oversized shower needed to be repositioned. Unfortunately initial work revealed plumbing issues and water damaged walls.

"This small job ended up being a full replacement of the bathroom and kitchen walls, and the relocation of the bathroom plumbing," Noelene says.

Halfway through the project, the builder tasked with the renovation left, saying he was too busy with other work.

"Fortunately builder Peter Carol stepped in to complete the project," says Noelene.

Many of the other tradespeople were sourced through Hipages.com.au, which she says was perfect forum for small jobs.

Cooking up more space

Moving the wall between the bathroom and kitchen meant another 200mm of room was added to the kitchen.

Noelene says the flow-on effect was that the dated glass brick windows in that space could also be replaced, and that got the ball rolling on replacing all the other windows.

The kitchen was refreshed with a new benchtop and appliances, and new joinery

units were installed creating more storage.

"We went to Bunnings and colour matched the existing joinery," Noelene says. "We also added a timber benchtop and installed a cooktop and a rangehood. Before that, there was a stand-alone oven."

While the granny flat always had a private entrance, a new slab was poured for a patio, with a seat carved from the sandstone rock near the front door. Decking and a garden path was then added with sandstone steps.

"The quick makeover from a can of paint ended up as major works," says Noelene.

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THE BRIEF

The original plan was to freshen up the granny flat with some paint, but one job led to another, and it was ultimately given a major makeover, taking in the kitchen, bathroom and front entrance.

DESIGNER

Noelene Cason from Interiors by Cason, interiorsbycason.com.au

THE SOURCE

Kaboodle Kitchen kaboodle.com.au
BetaView windows betaview.com.au
Arc formwork and decking arcreo.com.au





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The sunny new deck is an inviting spot for dining.



New timber benchtops and a streamlined cooktop and oven update the compact kitchen.



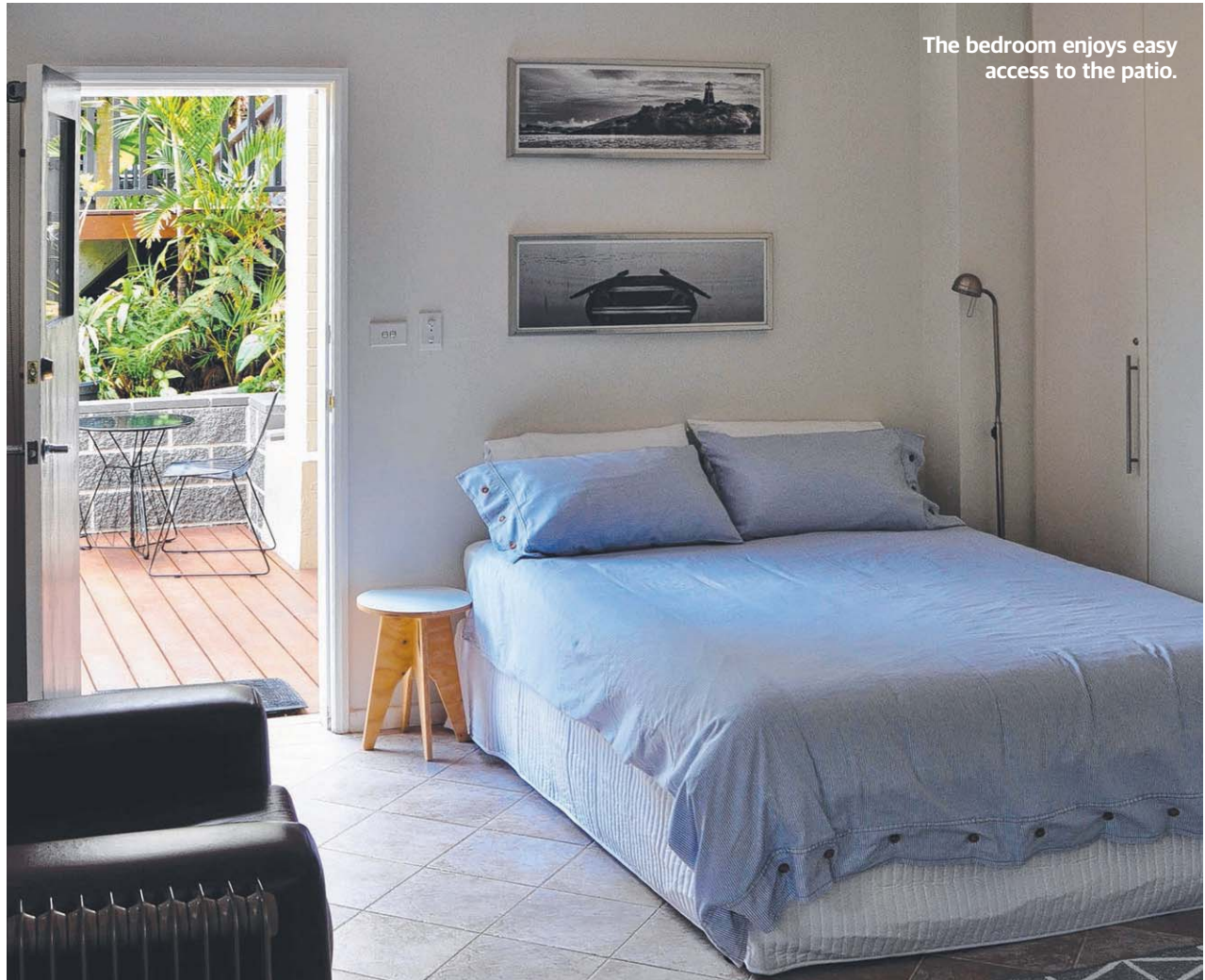
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