

AUSTRALIAN

WIN DIY PRIZE PACKS

# Handyman

We show you how!

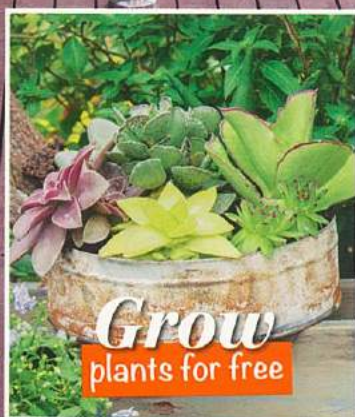
## DECK SPECIAL

- LATEST DESIGNS
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**RENOVATE**  
BEFORE & AFTER  
TRANSFORMATIONS

**GARDEN**  
GROW YOUR OWN  
HERBS & VEGIES

*Summer living*  
ENTERTAINING MADE EASY



# GREEK CHIC

A Santorini-style renovation of a family house creates a luxurious feel for a modern lifestyle

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES THREE BIRDS RENOVATIONS

The large living and kitchen space opens to a leafy view.



When best friends Lana Taylor, Bonnie Hindmarsh and Erin Cayless quit their corporate jobs in 2014 and decided to set up a renovating business together, for at least one of them it came like a bolt out of the blue.

'I'd been doing the same gig for almost 15 years and wanted to do something for myself. So when Bonnie suggested we renovate houses together, I was all ears,' says Lana.

With their complementary skills and a steep learning curve, the women completed five glamorous renovations and documented it all on social media.

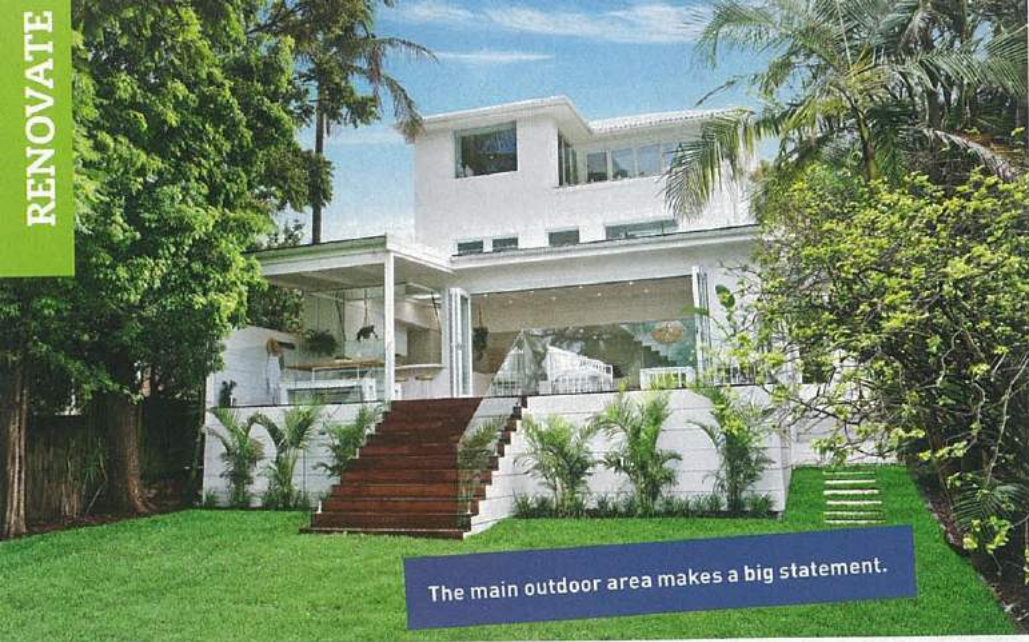
Lana's own home would be number six, and Three Birds Renovations created a stunning modern home, with a style made for comfort, glamour and Greek Island holidays. >



House plants punctuate the pure white spaces.



Large bifolds ensure a seamless flow from inside to out.



The main outdoor area makes a big statement.



### Alfresco living

Apart from the primary outdoor space leading from the kitchen and lounge area, Lana's home has multiple alfresco spaces. These are treated thoughtfully and form an arc over the home to follow the trajectory of the sun.

Transforming dead space is a principle of the business, and making areas that may have been overlooked functional and beautiful.

'I had quite a large access down the side of my house, so I transformed it into a courtyard,' say Lana.

'When we have guests over, rather than everyone having to traipse through the house through the front door, I've got a side entrance with proper steps instead of the dirt and gravel that used to be there.' >



Before



After  
A side passage is now a relaxing alfresco space.



Floor-to-ceiling windows bring the outdoors in.



Neglected areas can be transformed into functional, practical additions that enhance your home



# PROTITE

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### Light-filled void

The dramatic impact of the light and the stand-out statement of the staircase all come down to one thing – the void. After designing the third Three Birds Renovations house with a void, Lana immediately knew she wanted the feature in her home.

It forms the centrepiece, and Lana is so passionate about how this one design tenet can transform a home that she sacrificed the original master bedroom to fit in the void, taking the house from four to three bedrooms.

'People can struggle with losing floor space. If we'd kept four bedrooms, the house would have been darker, not open, and the stairs would have had less impact,' she says.

'It's just a different ball game and so, wherever possible, think about a void, even if you can only make it work at the entrance. It creates drama and floods the space with light.' >



A void forms the literal and figurative centrepiece, even at the expense of floor space



A dramatic chandelier draws attention to the void.



#### Extra protection

Specialist Gyprock plasterboard is used throughout the home.

Gyprock Sensitive is part of Gyprock's Residential Specialty Options range of plasterboards.

The core is treated with an antifungal agent, which penetrates the paper liner and paint coating. It also contains a wax emulsion, which makes it highly resistant

to moisture and humidity. The product is classified as low in volatile organic compounds (VOC). This means that it emits fewer chemicals than the acceptable Australian standard.

The parents' level is clad with Gyprock Soundchek for increased noise absorption. Higher levels of noise control can be achieved by including bulk acoustic insulation in the Soundchek wall cavity.



The children have their own space in which to grow.

### Style statement

The entire second floor is space for Lana and her husband, Jason, and two children.

The aesthetic remains very much the same, as Lana preferred not to create kids' rooms that would only be appropriate for certain ages, or use very bright colours or certain surfaces, just because they are kids.

'I didn't want to design a house for my kids in terms of getting dark floors and dark sofas just because they won't show the dirt, as I'm not going to be happy every day. I want to wake up feeling like I'm in Santorini,' says Lana.

'We have a shoes-off rule, but I'd rather get the couches steam cleaned a few times a year than sacrifice the overall look and feel I want at home as mother of the household.' ➤



The kids' bedrooms are linked by the void to the parents' level above.



**After**

The kids' bathroom is fresh in form and function after the reno.



Even the hallways are tranquil spaces.



**Adding detail**

One of Lana's favourite details of the original house was a wall of pink bougainvillea, and her search for her signature style started there.

'I looked at houses with pink bougainvillea on Instagram and Pinterest and came across lots of Greek houses. My house was already a Tuscan villa style, so I thought, yes, my house can definitely take this,' she says.

'From there, it all became easy and I incorporated so much of the style, in the colour palette and the details, such as rendered bench seating.'

The children's bathroom also works within the Greek Island colour spectrum, and has a signature feature wall of glazed subway tiles. >



Take inspiration from something that already exists in the house and use this as a starting point



**Before**





The box window doubles as a seat to take in the view.

A private outdoor area brings maximum function to the parents' level.



### Parents' domain

The top level is a private area for Lana and Jason, comprising the master bedroom, walk-in robe, bathroom, office and an outdoor terrace.

Each area is optimised to create the calm and luxurious feel Lana wanted. It's a home to feel good in, and she ensures each room achieves this end.

'The most beautiful spot in the home is my office, which is really a huge room with a beautiful table and chandelier,' she says.

'Many would have used it as a lounge room, but I work from home nearly every day and I didn't want to be spending all that time in a dingy study.

'You have to ask yourself where you want to sit when everyone else has left for work or school. I wanted to sit in the best place in the house, so it became my office.' >



Muted colours and a simple treatment create a relaxing space.

### Sleeping space

The master bedroom has the simple task of providing a comfortable place to sleep, with all other elements removed from the room and located elsewhere.

'It made sense to make the bedroom just for sleeping and walk around the corner on the carpeted landing to a walk-in robe and ensuite,' says Lana.

In the bathroom, the signature feature wall of tiles is a fish-scale mosaic that ties into the overall colour scheme and brings in an element of water.

'It's like being on holiday every day living in this house,' says Lana. ☘

Three Birds Renovations  
[threebirdsrenovations.com](http://threebirdsrenovations.com)



Skylights flood the shower with light in the ensuite.