

# Radical reno

Mount Victoria | Wellington

Turning a Wellington rabbit warren into an open, functional home was a huge undertaking, but it is the kind of project welcomed by Adrian Reid Builders. “We are experienced at renovating old houses and familiar with their challenges. You have to be able to commit for a long period of time and be dedicated to achieving the right result,” explains Adrian Reid.

After 18 months, the result delights the owners, who say building new was not an option. Their bungalow was constructed around 1900, and city rules dictate the home cannot be demolished without resource consent. “The renovation had to preserve the character of the home,” says the owner. “The whole place was made up of small rooms with a very tight circular staircase to get upstairs. You could touch either side of the bathroom if you stood in the middle.”







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Architect Stuart Gardyne of Architecture Plus designed a home that marries form with function. He capitalised on the site's stunning views of Wellington Harbour while giving the couple practical spaces in which to work and play. Another requirement was creating a beautiful backdrop to showcase an extensive art collection.

Adrian and his crew stripped the inside and installed stairs with a straight rise. Original matai timber floors remain, bestowing character and charm, while new, double-glazed windows add contemporary comfort and energy efficiency. The upper storey has been transformed into a large master bedroom with built-in wardrobe and en suite.

The team demolished a separate studio in the backyard and rebuilt it to contain an upscale bedroom and bathroom. A low-lying garage was removed to create more outdoor living space and off-street car parking. Extra insulation, cedar cladding, skylights, high-end kitchen, lighting and tiling contribute to a modern take on a grand old dame.

Adrian says homes in the neighbourhood are so tightly packed, manoeuvring around the

site was tough. “The other challenge was repitching the roof and keeping everything watertight while dealing with traditional wet, windy Wellington weather.”

Interior designer Di Baker ensured colours and textures created a cohesive, balanced interior. The owners' artwork is proudly displayed on painted-pine feature walls, where spacing between boards create negative detailing. “The art looks fantastic,” says the owner, “and all of the lighting is designed to showcase our collection.”

The home is about half the size of their previous dwelling, and the owner says it is the perfect alternative to an apartment. “This property really delivers for us.”

Adrian is pleased the end result matches the vision for the home. “When you can't really tell the difference between the 3D image and the finished product, you know you have got it right, down to the colours and style. It is great to stand back and say, this is a really nice job.” <sup>®</sup>

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