

## renovation



# Family harmony

Getting it right was vital for this renovating couple and, with the help of a professional, they've gained the perfect match

Words **Karen Woods**  
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**W**hen Emily and Peter moved into their Canterbury house, it took all of Emily's skills to whip up culinary delights in their tiny kitchen.

"Everyone was amazed I was able to produce meals for a family of five in the kitchen I had," she says.

"So when it came to renovating, the kitchen was the highest priority for me."

With a growing family, there was also a need to create more informal living space, so the renovation included a large open-plan family room and dining area adjoining the kitchen.

As for the style of the renovation, Emily knew exactly what she wanted,

and that was for the addition to be a flawless match to the original house.

To do this, she and Peter enlisted the services of Paul Grossi, of Grossi Constructions, with whom they had an instant rapport.

"Paul was so easy to work with, very calm and full of really practical suggestions," says Emily.

"Peter and I took on planning different parts of the renovation, and Paul was the glue between us. He knew what we each wanted and made sure it all went together in the end."

Having started with a very basic kitchen, Emily's new kitchen is a show-piece. But it's also a comfortable and welcoming space.

"We wanted the family room and

kitchen to be open, but I didn't want the whole room to look like a kitchen," Emily says.

"I really wanted it to blend into the living space."

Antique-white cabinetry with decorative panels and a mantle over the stove were custom built in its workshop, then installed and painted on site.

The deep porcelain sink in the kitchen was shipped from England, and it is now surrounded by a jarrah benchtop, which doubles as a breakfast bar.

A stainless steel splashback has been installed behind the impressive Ilve stove, while the splashback in other sections of the kitchen has been created using panels of black decorative-edged tiles.

The kitchen includes personal touches, such as a plate rack for the display of special items, cupboards featuring bevel-edged glass and also a wine rack.

A timber-topped study desk, located below large leadlight windows, has been included in the design.

In the family room, bookshelves and space for entertainment equipment have been built in on either side of the fireplace, over which hangs a gold-framed mirror. A soft moss green has been used here with a slightly stronger green shade above the picture rails to the ceiling.

Ornate cornices and a ceiling rose have been installed in the family area.

The new colours were introduced into the formal lounge and dining rooms, so the tones are consistent throughout.

The original designs of the windows and doors have been faithfully replicated to ensure the new extension blends with the original house.

Tasmanian oak floors have been matched to the original boards in the front of the house.





A new bathroom was also added off the family area and features a green clawfoot bath with vintage-style tapware and timber cabinetry were made.

A stunning leadlight window overlooks the bath.

Paul was careful to take care of details, such as using recycled bricks and terracotta tiles for the renovation, again to achieve a look consistent with the original structure.

"We hunted around for tiles that had a little bit of moss on them, so they wouldn't look too clean and new when they went up on the roof," Paul says.

Fittings were carefully selected and include period-style lightswitches, door furniture and heating duct vents.

"I had visualised how I wanted the end result to look, and it is exactly what I imagined it to be," Emily says.

Grossi Constructions can be contacted on 0412 307 070.

### Emily's tips

- Choose someone you feel comfortable communicating with to do your renovation. If you want something changed, you have to be able to ask without feeling like you are being difficult.
- Make a list of what you want to achieve before you even contact anyone.
- Look at many products, fittings and finishes to ensure you get what you want.

#### Must-have

The custom-made kitchen was Emily's highest priority (top right)

#### Right approach

Decorative door surrounds and cornices show the attention to detail (right)