

# A TALL ORDER

Soaring ceilings and lofty silhouettes epitomise this family home in Scarborough, Western Australia

Words Louise Smithers Photography Dion Robeson



The sunken living room offers comfort and privacy

The new living space wears a step ceiling on top and clerestory windows at its sides that take advantage of the northern sun to filter light around the room



Scene: a tight and compact 1950s two-bedder that left much to be desired in Scarborough, Western Australia. Enter: an award-winning building and design firm that transformed the home from two bedrooms to three, from one bathroom to two and from lacklustre to brilliant. Fade to: grey (grey cladding, that is).

Now that we've set the scene, let's take a look at the main players. The clients: a young couple with one child. The builder: Integrated Construction. The architect/designer: Dalecki Design.

The clients asked for a contemporary and contrasting addition to their original 1950s home that would turn the restrictive living quarters into more roomy and welcoming familial spaces. "There was quite a prominent disconnection from the kitchen and dining to the living room, and even more so from the master bedroom to the single shared bathroom," explains Janik Dalecki, founder of Dalecki Design.

To accommodate a third bedroom, the existing formal lounge room has been converted into the master bedroom, with a new walk-in robe, ensuite and living area built onto the house as additions. Confronted with a budget tighter than a freshly Botoxed face, and a building envelope a little bigger than an actual envelope, the primary challenge was to find a pocket of space large enough to house the additions without encroaching on the outdoor living and garden areas.

The only usable spot was a 5m-wide by 4m-deep patch of earth. "Due to the fall of the land (the existing house was quite built up), we opted for a sunken living space, meaning the living

### ed's fave

THE JAMES HARDIE STRIA CLADDING THAT WAS APPLIED VERTICALLY TO EMPHASISE THE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURE'S SOARING 4.8M HEIGHT



Clerestory highlight windows  
promote impressive ceiling heights

**we love**  
THE ENTRY  
STAIRS THAT  
DOUBLE AS  
A DAY SEAT



room addition could be built right up to the boundary without overlooking the neighbouring property,” Janik outlines. “I love this sunken design element. It feels lovely stepping down from the existing house into the more intimate living area, creating a real ‘snug room’.”

Revealing just how savvy their design skills are, the Dalecki team managed to add 33m<sup>2</sup> of functional living space within a fairly restrictive land parcel. With a considered connection to the great outdoors, the new addition was to be a light, bright space with a palette reflective of the client’s love of raw and unfinished materials.

The new living space wears a step ceiling on top and clerestory windows at its sides that take advantage of the northern sun to filter light around the room. “Clerestory highlight windows support the 3.5m-high ceilings, increase the overall volume of the room and create the illusion of space,” Janik adds.

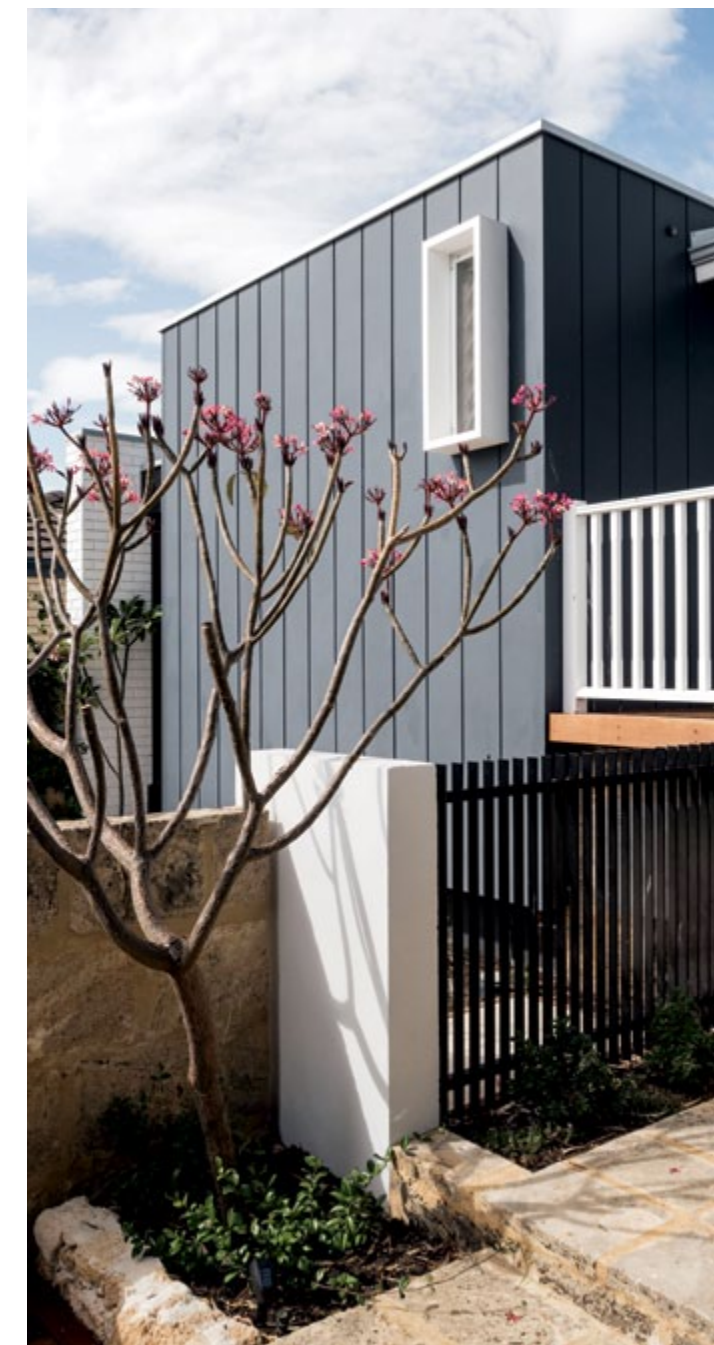
The living room’s entry stairs are architectural overachievers. They facilitate the indoor/outdoor connection dictated by the brief, while also providing a day seat for quiet contemplation or raucous reveries. “I just love the freedom of this area and the idea of casually sitting on and around the stairs, connected with both the living room and exterior living zones.”

A winning combo of painted brickwork and exposed concrete lends textural interest internally. Outside, bold colours and sharp lines differentiate the new structure from the existing home.

Saddled with the clients’ “visual inspiration board”, which



houses & apartments the duke



outlined their preferred style of cladding and the use of industrial materials such as raw and painted face brick, concrete and timber, Dalecki Design hit a home run when completing the exterior. A skeleton of timber framing and passive solar design principles underpin the addition. It is wrapped in James Hardie Stria cladding (fibre-cement shiplap boards) applied vertically rather than in the traditional horizontal layout to emphasise the soaring 4.8m height of the single-storey building. “We were really trying to provide a structure that sat alongside the existing house and contrasted in form, shape and scale,” says Janik, who also notes the juxtaposed material and colour palette.

From a cramped two-bedroom/one-bathroom home to a sprawling but snug new three-bedroom/two-bathroom layout, this project is one Dalecki Design is particularly proud of. As Janik concludes: “The Duke highlights the fact that good design — which doesn’t involve knocking down and starting from scratch — can make a huge difference to existing house stock.” **HD** [daleckidesign.com.au](http://daleckidesign.com.au)