

TALKIN' BOUT MY RENOVATION



Perfect solution! The owners of this space have made their great entertaining space complete with a space for the TV and BBQ.

It's beer o'clock on the barbie deck

Michelle Collins

IT'S a deck ... no, it's a laundry ... no, it's a man cave.

The outdoor space in this Stafford home - which combined the laundry with an entertaining area - impressed the judges who awarded the house a Queensland Building Design regional award for residential alterations under \$150,000.

Building designer Debra Wroe from Local Concepts (localconcepts.com.au) took the plan of the '60s home in Stafford, which had only one large bedroom and two smaller ones, and came up with a layout that has three large bedrooms, bathroom, ensuite and an office off the lounge, plus open-plan lounge, dining and kitchen areas leading on to the new deck.

It is the deck that really provides the wow factor. It has a built-in natural gas barbecue and cooktop with an electric underbench oven.

The wide timber rail serves two purposes - something to lean on and a place to rest your glass.

"Living in Queensland it is all about the backyard lifestyle and we needed to put a large LCD TV in a secure environment which could be used simply by opening the door," Debra says.

"The use of the three large sliders hides the laundry whitegoods if entertaining.

"The spacing for the bar fridge ties in with the sink and a small dry bar area below the TV within 2m of the barbecue.

"This allows for watching the big game with friends and family all

within the one location. In the clients' opinion, there was nothing worse than being stranded at the barbecue when all the fun is happening in front of the TV or at the bar, hence the man cave was created.

"A couple of bar stools up against the railing, which is wide enough for a tasty beverage, really sets the entertainment scene. It allows social interaction while showing off the cooking talents to the friends and family."

The renovation also included sanding and oiling the existing inside floor boards for a warmer look.

The meter box was removed from the front of the home and the house was given a fresh paint job in a rich tea green shade that complements the white timber windows and the floorboards.



Books are more than just words on paper, and so deserve to be displayed with care. We love these ideas from *Bookshelf* (\$29.95, Thames & Hudson).

ON A LIMB
Add a touch of whimsy to your children's room with a playful and memorable take on a practical idea. This tree-like form sparks the imagination; created by

Shawn Soh, designartist.co.kr

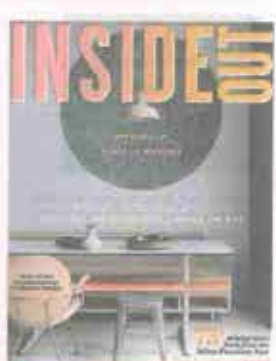
GEOMETRICS
Experiment with unconventional materials and shapes to create sculptural storage. This ingenious "T-shelf" (left) created by Jaewon Cho is held together with plastic zip ties rather than nails and screws. Visit 1studio.com to see its many creative forms.

FRAME IT
Create a striking collage by arranging box-shaped shelves in groups to frame your novels. For added perspective, set frames away

from the wall to allow light to penetrate from behind. These lacquered steel "Stick" shelves by Presse Citron are a perfect example, presse-citron.com

A GOOD MYSTERY
Get tricky and erase the need for shelves. Create an invisible shelf by mounting a book to the wall as your base. Visit mironlior.com for more info on the Conceal design.

For more ideas, see the July/August issue of *Inside Out* magazine.



Do you have a renovation project you would like to share? Email details and photos to homeground@thesundaymail.com.au