



# Home among the fig trees

Light, the Queensland climate and a grove of mature fig trees provided the inspiration for this renovation of an acreage home.

When architect Tania J Coward first saw the original house, it was a nineteen seventies box like project home with dark brown roof tiles that ignored the natural surroundings and aspect of its location. With her architectural talent honed to see the potential for a home, Tania took note of the fig trees and the northern aspect of the property, and began the task of renovating and extending, a process that became an eight year project, done in several stages.

Tania knocked down internal walls and installed high level windows and increased existing wall openings in the original structure, allowing natural light into the new internal open spaces of the home. A split-level addition was constructed to sit higher than the main house to create a private bedroom wing filled with bright northern light, natural breezes and views out to the property's stunning fig trees and rural surroundings.

Tania worked with the needs of the homeowners to create an environment they love. It was designed with the different stages of family life and visits from the extended family in mind. The kitchen is the centrepiece of the home, with its high ceilings and windows and large doors that open out

onto the patio, bringing the outdoors in. A laundry area extends off the kitchen to create additional counter space during large family gatherings.

It is the attention to detail that completes this home. A new timber entry pergola, timber screens and shaped timber rafters provide a decorative element to what is a relatively simple design and to tie together the old and the new sections. Tania's new internal layout whereby the transition from public to private family spaces are enhanced by natural light and cooling breezes, creates a well thought-out, highly liveable family home. One might say the quintessential rural family home.

Tania's work in transforming this house from a gloomy residence into a bright, airy and welcoming family home is a perfect example of how architectural design can work with client needs, natural surroundings and the Queensland environment.

With over 20 years of experience, Tania's portfolio includes successful new residential and commercial projects, as well as renovations. Tania takes a professional, yet personal approach to all projects to assist clients to define their meaning of place and exceed their expectations.



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