



HOME TRUTHS

with editor Robyn Willis

Time to take charge of change

One of the cardinal rules of renovating is to live in the house as it is for a while.

When you buy a house, you think you already know everything there is to know about it, from the way the hallway runs through the middle to whether the deck outside is large enough for a table.

I've certainly had that experience of doing an inspection on a possible new home, mentally thinking through all the changes I would make.

Indeed, it's one of the pleasures in an otherwise stressful process of imagining knocking through walls, remodelling services and adding on an extra room.

But houses are not always as they seem so that it is only with time that you realise why things have been done in a certain way.

When we first bought a little Victorian-era sandstone cottage some years ago, my initial plan was to remove the render from the front of the house.

The north side of the house was completely exposed cream-coloured stonework, which no one could see because it was down the side line.

It was my first experience of living in a sandstone house and it took me a while to learn the nuances of this beautiful material, particularly how to protect it.

But there were no guarantees if we removed the render that it would look any good and we may have sped up the erosion process.

Fortunately, we didn't have enough money to pursue our plans. By the time we did, we had changed our minds. robyn.willis@seven.com.au

AND ROUND AND ROUND WE GO

You can never have enough storage options and this one would work in almost any room. Koko wall shelf, \$249.95, from Amalfi, amalfihomewares.com.au

TAKE THEM OUT

These pretty bowls are handmade in Tasmania from polymer clay. Faceted trinket dishes, \$23 each from Harrison & Co, harrisonandco.com.au



WISH LIST

THIS WEEK'S MUST-HAVES

Compiled by Robyn Willis



THE EDGE OF TIME

Keep track of the time with this minimalist-style clock. Dark Grey Steel Stand Clock by Norm Architects for Menu, \$109, from Simple Form, simpleform.com.au

This week's cover

This clever re-imagining of two separate flats into one single residence is the work of architect Madeleine Blanchfield. While for some having two homes to work with is a luxury, there were plenty of challenges. The full story is on page 14.



JACKET REQUIRED

This chair takes its cues from the fashion industry with a steel tubular frame and quilted upholstery. Jacket lounge chair, \$4580, from Stylecraft, stylecraft.com.au

GO WITH THE FLOW

Embrace the imperfect nature of this organic-style vase in on-trend black and white. HK Living Lava Vase, \$89.95, from Design Twins, designtwins.com

