

By Tracey Edwardes

PERFECT BALANCE

Perfect balance was the challenge for architectural designer Jason Higham when renovating his partner's childhood home. "It needed to be spacious, light, warm and practical, reusing materials to keep the emotional link to its history."

The resourceful labour of love became the national winner of the ADNZ Architectural Design Awards for Alterations and Additions, and also TIDA Designer Renovation of the Year.

The 119sqm 1950's home is unassuming from the outside however, once inside, it's breathtaking. "We stripped everything back to the framing. The study and third bedroom stole much of the sunlight, so that space was opened up to become part of the kitchen/dining/living area. We de-nailed the original timber, which was then

milled to profiles by local builder Grant Shadbolt."

This resulted in a stunning kitchen wall and ceiling feature in a mix of widths and grains. An olde-world timber floor by Hardie and Thomson continues to the carpeted lounge, while white-washed plywood lines the kitchen cabinetry.

"Through glass doors, the study/spare bedroom incorporated the old porch. We rehomed its galvanised steel roof as our kitchen splashback."

Jason's partner, Natural Health

Practitioner Natalie Price, insisted on environmentally healthy components, including recycled-wool carpet underlay, natural paints and untreated plywood cabinetry. And there was three-year-old daughter Cedar to consider too, so it was double basins in the only bathroom, with a custom-made shower folding away to extend precious floor space.

Jason says people can't believe the new roominess of the upcycled home, considering its small footprint. Visit www.highamarchitecture.co.nz.