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Building your lifestyle

Ultimate Guide to Renovating your Post-War Home



The post-war house refers to the style of Queenslanders built in the 1940s after World War II in Brisbane.

Compared to previous eras, these houses were a lot simpler and often on the smaller side. Often they featured just two bedrooms and one bathroom. Although they were usually built on larger blocks of land in advantageous locations, there was evidently a demand for function over form in this era.

That being said, the structure itself provides a fantastic foundation and these are often ideal for renovation or extensions, to provide more space and bring the home into the 21st century.

Why Renovate your Post-War Home?

While these homes are usually built well and have great bones, many of them could use some work.

Particularly if you have a growing family, or simply want more space, the size of these dwellings is often one of the main reasons homeowners decide to renovate.

In addition to this, they're often expensive to run due to the lack of insulation, gaps in floorboards and windows and absence of natural lighting. These can contribute to higher electricity bills as you try to mediate the temperature and lighting of your home.

While a renovation may be a short term expense, it can save you money in the long run. It will also create extra comforts and conveniences and you will be able to implement your own vision.



Tips for Renovating your Post-War Home

Brainstorm

The best place to start is planning and brainstorming. Take the time to research similar post-war renovation projects in your area to get an idea of what's possible for your home. Having a clear idea and vision for your space is important when you start approaching builders to ask for a quote. This will reassure them that you are prepared and committed to your project.

Get an inspection

Once you've decided to go ahead with your renovation, it's a good idea to get your house inspected by a professional builder. They can highlight any structural issues, such as damage from termites or weather. Knowing that your home has these issues before you start can help you save headaches and money down the track.

Get asbestos removed

If your home was built during the 1940s-60s, then chances are it's made from asbestos-containing materials. Although asbestos isn't dangerous if properly contained, it's still a good idea to get it removed during your renovation project. This will help to protect your home and your family for years to come.

When you work with JM Homes, we can include asbestos removal as part of our service, or we can recommend a company who specialises in demo and removal, and we have worked with many times.

Preserve your home's character

In Brisbane, heritage homes can be protected under [overlay schemes](#). This means that in order for your renovation project to get approval, you'll have to meet their requirements about preserving the character, heritage and landscape of your home.

When renovating, try to preserve the original features such as decorative timberwork, VJ (vertical joint) walls, fretwork, and verandas. Restoring rather than replacing these features can maintain the home's character and add value.

Learn more about overlay schemes in [Brisbane](#) and [Moreton Bay](#) here.

Upgrade your amenities

While preserving heritage is key, integrating modern amenities is equally important. Consider upgrading electrical systems, plumbing, and insulation to meet current building standards. Ensure the renovations align with modern lifestyle needs without compromising the home's traditional aesthetics.



Work with your layout

Post-war homes typically have a raised structure with living spaces on the upper level to capture breezes. Respect the original layout while making alterations that enhance functionality. Consider opening up spaces, creating flow between rooms, and optimising natural light and ventilation to improve livability.

Build an extension

If you're looking for more space, then consider building an extension. Whether you use your extension as an extra bedroom, playroom, study nook, guest accommodation or something else, it will help to make your home feel more spacious.

Work with a reliable builder

Renovating a post-war home is a complex task that can involve unexpected costs or delays. It's important to work with a reliable builder like JM Homes who can listen to your concerns, work through any challenges, and deliver the home of your dreams.

Renovating a post-war house is a labour of love that requires patience, attention to detail, and an appreciation for its heritage.

By respecting the home's history while integrating modern comforts, you can transform it into a timeless living space that honours its past while meeting contemporary needs. Embrace the unique charm of these iconic homes, and your renovation journey will be a rewarding experience.



Post-War Renovation Project Case Study

This modest, post-war home has been completely transformed into the owner's dream house! With their vision in mind, we took this quaint, single storey 3-bedroom house and turned it into a modern 2 storey 4-bedroom home with an open living area and ample storage.

The best part about giving this house the facelift it deserved was being able to maintain the character of the house by keeping the original features like the windows, timber floors and cladding.

By raising the home to build underneath, we were able to make the most of the block so the owners would have ample space and storage. Most importantly, we were able to preserve the backyard space and even add a pool.



Here are what the homeowners, Manda and Nathan, have to say about the project:

"Josh and Kev completed a house lift, build under and pool on our post war home. It turned out amazing. The house flows from the old to the new seamlessly.

The JM Homes team are friendly, honest and keep the build on budget. The build was on time and they had great communication. It was important to us to have a builder we could trust, as it was our first time renovating and had to completely rely on Josh and Kev advice, they didn't disappoint. I would recommend JM Homes."

View the full case study [here](#).

Ready to Renovate your Post-War Home?

Talk to us! Our experienced and passionate team would love to help bring your post-war home back to life.

We always take the time to communicate with our clients at every stage of the build, and strive to provide the best possible outcomes. Trust us to turn your historic home into a modern and spacious family dwelling.

Ready to take your home to the next level?

From house raising and build unders to major renovations and extensions, we've got you covered.

LET'S TALK

