

# The Original Footprint

SAM CRAWFORD ARCHITECT

Photography by Brett Boardman

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This house evokes the memory of a 1950s beach shack. This isn't surprising, given that the footprint of the original home was retained, complete with a definitive 1950s-style skillion roof. Designed by Sam Crawford and Emili Fox, while finishing their architectural studies at university, the house is now a completely new beach house. "Nearly everything was replaced – windows, doors and even the original shiplap weatherboards. They were completely rotten," says Crawford, who was advised by many builders, at the time, to demolish the home completely and start again.

As the owners had fond memories of growing up in the house as children, they were keen to retain as much of the original structure as possible. The external wall structure, the floor joists, the rafters and the roof sheeting were retained. And one bedroom remains in its original position. Everything else has been added and reconfigured. Vertical tongue-and-groove weatherboard replaced the shiplap boards and while the original roof was retained, new glass highlight windows create a more transparent feel to the home. "We wanted to take advantage of the vertical elements of the gum trees and bring more light into the living areas," says Crawford.

The interior was substantially redesigned. The kitchen and main bathroom were swapped around. A bedroom, once enclosed, was opened up and now forms part of the dining/living area. Large timber and glass sliding doors were also installed either side of the house, framing both the casual meals area and the living spaces. "When you open the doors onto the front deck and to the rear (adjacent to the kitchen/meals area), the spaces feel considerably larger than the home's 120 square metres," says Crawford. One of the few additions, apart from the new deck areas, is the main bedroom and ensuite. Following the gentle topography of the site, the main bedroom is reached via a few steps. "It adds a certain privacy to the otherwise open-plan house."

With the opening up of the house, the ventilation is also significantly improved. "Before, while one whole façade was wall-to-ceiling glass, filling the place with sun and light, the other remained entirely closed. During warmer months, it felt like you were living in a green house," says Crawford.

Straightforward and unpretentious, this beach house still has the feel of an original 1950s weekender. The fifties laminates have been replaced and the new kitchen allows for more sophisticated dining. However, for the owners, there is still the rudimentary feel of simply living near the beach.













