



MAGIC BLEND ... Desi Carlos combines the old and the new to create her ideal family home. Photographs // Jeremy Veitch

# Going with the flow

A Coorparoo Queenslander has a bright and breezy makeover to make the most of city views and Brisbane's balmy weather

Uniqueness is not easy to find, but Desi Carlos, who bought a four-bedroom, three-bathroom Coorparoo home in 2001 before renovating last year, says friends describe her home's aesthetic as "Desi style".

"I wasn't inspired by anything in particular when I was decorating," says the 36-year-old director of Tree of Life Nutrition and Jus Gourmet Frozen Meals who lives with husband Peter, a commercial illustrator, and children Connor and Zoe.

"It's all in my head and I keep moving things around until I feel they have found their place in my home."

The Queenslander was treated to a cosmetic makeover in 2007, while downstairs was built in to add a lounge room, kitchenette/bar, laundry, studio, office and outdoor patio. Like many who renovate traditional Queenslanders, Desi says she was conscious of staying true to the home's original look and feel.

"I think we have shown respect for the home's history and kept the character of the Queenslander with the VJs, an oak kitchen and polished floors, but have included modern aspects like the tiled area outside and the granite benches."

With renovations complete, the home has an open-plan feel, with high ceilings, bare walls and white plantation shutters. Desi says she wanted to create a space with "very little congestion".

"We kept furniture to a minimum, so we didn't end up with pointless clutter," she says.

Marrying rich chocolate brown pieces in leather and cotton with neutral and soft cream walls gives a sense of space and warmth, while original fittings, such as art deco lights and timber window frames in the kitchen, are a nod to the past.

But Desi's favourite spot is the main bedroom. "We have a large walk-in wardrobe and an ensuite, which is rare for a Queenslander. In summer, we can open the fold-out doors and have a beautiful fresh breeze flow through the house - and we get glimpses of the city."

Though interior renovations were a priority and gardening and landscaping hasn't been high on the agenda, the home is surrounded by large trees, making the balcony a top spot for unwinding.

"I always seem to be out there," says Desi, who is also the resident dietitian on 97.3FM, with a fortnightly spot on the breakfast show.

"It's a great place to sit and have either a glass of wine in the early evening, or a cup of coffee in the morning. It's lovely to look out and see all the different birds that visit our poinciana."

Apart from a pantry full of healthy snacks and a good supply of wine, Desi says the home's best feature is that it suits the family's busy lifestyle.

"We have a great time in our house and we have so many fond memories of the home already. The fact that my husband works from home but we can still manage to keep work separate is sensational."

## LOVE IT

I cherish this floral throw over a lovely cane chair. A lot of our furniture is chocolate and cream but this piece is pretty and bright, it symbolises the feminine, girly part of me.



## VIEW POINT



**CARA BAUMGART**  
33 // GROUP  
MARKETING  
CO-ORDINATOR,  
DRINX GROUP

### FIRST HOUSE LIKE?

I built on an elevated block overlooking Trinity Inlet and Cairns in 1999.

### WHAT WAS YOUR

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE BEST ABOUT YOUR CURRENT HOME?

It is in Greenslopes and I love the multiple entertainment areas.

### WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE IF YOU HAD A SPARE \$10,000?

My walk-in wardrobe could always do with more room.

### OR \$100,000?

Sell and build again.

### MOST USED ROOM?

The custom-built kitchen.

### FAVOURITE TRAVEL PIECE?

A hand-carved Mexican sculpture.

### BIGGEST SPLURGE FOR HOME?

The kitchen with its granite benchtops and stainless steel appliances.

### REAL ESTATE ADVICE?

Location, location, location.

LUCY BROOK