



It's not much use being surrounded by beautiful views if you can't make the most of them. In a stunning transformation, Viali Architects and builders Starr Constructions have succeeded in rejuvenating a tired, old two-storey semi-detached cottage, converting it from a space that received little direct sunlight into an elegant, freestanding light-filled home.

The original house comprised two bedrooms, a bathroom and an open-plan living space on the ground floor, with family and dining room on the lower level. The backyard was set within a pretty and heavily landscaped area, and also had its own landscaping surrounding an existing in-ground swimming pool.

The main objective in the new design was to capture these pleasant surrounding views from all of the home's living areas and allow more direct and indirect solar access in general. During the works, much of the home was demolished, although the traditional façade remains.

The stylish new dwelling now boasts not two, but three levels — a lower ground floor with laundry, bathroom, kitchen, dining and living areas; ground floor including two guest bedrooms, main bathroom and formal lounge, and a first floor with a main bedroom including

walk-in robe, ensuite and balcony, as well as a second bedroom with ensuite. Beautiful finishes feature throughout, including timeless polished timber flooring and extensive glazing.

One of the main highlights in this superb new home would have to be the two-storey glass atrium, conveniently adjacent to all the main living areas. Cleverly designed to capture as much sunlight as possible, it also comes with a system of fixed and operable screens that give occupants complete control over natural light levels.

The open stair and three-storey stairwell, along with the entry corridor, combine to act as an internal breezeway that can be controlled by operable glass louvre windows, again affording occupants complete control — this time over the breeze. Adjustable louvres are also a feature in the main bedroom, screening the balcony to provide all-important privacy without obstructing the attractive valley views.

Another impressive feature can be seen on the lower ground floor, where open living areas spill out to the gorgeous backyard, inviting the outdoors into the home and creating the perfect spot for entertaining friends.

It would certainly seem that Starr

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Constructions has achieved its goal of 'shedding more light' onto this charming residence; the house's vast glazing effectively maximises just about all available views, including the newly landscaped backyard, eucalypts and palms seen to the rear of the site, as well as the distant valley.