

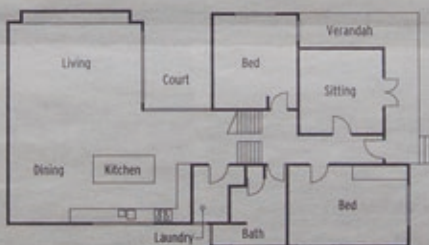


## OPEN HOME PLANNER

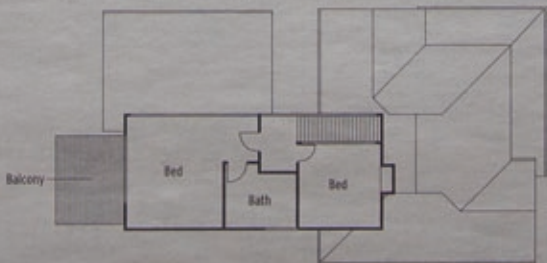
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Creative thinking ... (from top) the dramatic extension is barely visible from the front of the cottage; the living room has a polished concrete floor and soaring ceiling.



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

The first-floor eyrie – reached via an open-tread blackbutt staircase – contains a main bedroom suite and a study-cum-grandchild's room. To maximise upstairs floor space, instead of stepping in the southern exterior side wall to hide the addition as required by the council, Kha cleverly designed a curved, angled wall which merges with the roof to form a single surface. Corrugated light-grey Colorbond sheeting handsomely wraps the entire south side of the house, connecting the roof and walls all the way to ground level.

Walking out to the back garden, Kha points out that the existing timber cottage and new addition are "polar opposites" in appearance.

"We contrasted the soaring roofs, angled walls and long slit windows of the new against the old section's traditional pitched roof and double-hung windows," he says.

To echo the original cottage, timber cladding was used for the new addition and Kha convinced an initially dubious Sedmak

that there needed to be differentiation with the timber laid vertically in the extension to provide a more contemporary appearance and to distinguish it from the horizontal weatherboards of the existing house.

The height of the new ceiling in the living areas was a potential concern for Sedmak.

"I have always lived in houses with high ceilings and was paranoid that the ceiling would be too low but I was blown away when it went in and I saw how high it was," she says. And, so that noise doesn't bounce off the polished concrete floor, acoustic ceiling panelling was used above the seating area.

The result of all the careful planning is a house that suits all ages: Sedmak and her son, her other son, daughter, seven grandchildren plus her 94-year-old mother.

And it's a real talking point among all those neighbours. "I've lost count of the number of times that I've overheard people say: 'Wow, look at the transformation!'" she laughs.