

what's your style? attic conversions

Planning on going up in the world? Be inspired by these creative uses

of roof space from all around the globe WORDS FIONA JOY



1 PARIS RETREAT

The perfect master bedroom in a large and busy family home

Architect: Olivier Chabaud Architects (olivierchabaud.com).
Style of project: Complete renovation of a 19th-century pavilion.

This third-floor parents' retreat is part of a full renovation of a home in one of Europe's most densely populated suburbs, Bois-Colombes, about nine kilometres north west of the centre of Paris. The intention was to create a harmonious place for family life. The former attic space now houses a large master bedroom complete with dressing room and ensuite bathroom, all developed using simple, natural materials and making a stunning feature of the original beams.

Central to the space's success is the addition of numerous windows and skylights, which ensure that the full effect of the natural light can play up the dramatic conversion. Custom-made furniture in earthy timber tones plays to the incredible beams - the star of the space - and was also created with an eye to add storage. Clever timber joinery keeps all the bits and bobs that go with a bedroom hidden away and also works to define the separate zones of this area - although the bath is kept freestanding and open beside the windows for a luxurious feel.



The timber flooring in the bedroom gives way seamlessly to colour-matched stone tiles in the wet areas, allowing uniformity of style with the practicalities of an open-plan ensuite.



This attic conversion was part of a full home transformation that took approximately five months.



2 SYDNEY HANGOUT

This bedroom offers a relaxed grown-up zone for a teenager

Interior designer: Dimity Chitty of Hare + Klein (hareklein.com.au).
Style of project: Extra accommodation for a growing family.

The tired top storey of this majestic home on Sydney's North Shore was refurbished to house a master suite and three bedrooms. This space, built by the team at Yuncken (yuncken.net.au), was replastered and fitted with new windows and skirting before the interior designer moved in. The brief was to create a contemporary, light and fun interior suitable for a soon-to-be teenager.

Separate zones were created for sleep, homework and chilling out. All the joinery - including desk and shelving - is bespoke; a window seat area and robe incorporate further storage and display. Among the challenges was resolving the lighting layouts and air-conditioning with the changes in pitch of the raked ceilings.



Walls, ceiling and joinery are all painted in Dulux Natural White to reflect light. Other joinery features Eveneer veneer in Evenoak with a 10 per cent satin polyurethane finish.



The renovation of the top floor was one part of a major demolition and reno, which took two-and-a-half years.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (1) PHILIPPE HARDEN, (2) MARIAN RIABIC, (3) COURTESY OF LANDMARK LOFTS, (4) TERENCE TOURANGEAU



3 LONDON SPA

A clever master suite escape where space is at a premium

Builder: Landmark Lofts (landmark-lofts.com).
Style of project: A master suite addition to a West London terrace.

This is a classic example of a traditional dormer loft conversion in the UK capital where every square centimetre counts. The owners wanted to increase the space in their mid-terrace home and converted the empty loft into a bedroom and open-plan ensuite. The standing areas of the ensuite run along the wall opposite the window to keep this small and elegant zone functional.

The larger-than-average area allowed features, such as a walk-in wardrobe and wall-to-wall storage solutions. The bathroom benefits from direct natural light and total privacy, and its clean, contemporary design maximises space. The skylight also ensures good ventilation - a necessity in a zone that's prone to damp.



A bench seat in the shower is a good compromise if you don't have room to relax in a bath. It's also a handy shelf and keeps the overall design simple and uncluttered.



A dormer window conversion by a loft specialist can take as little as six to eight weeks.



4 TORONTO DEN

A space to kick back, relax and enjoy the light as day turns to night

Interior designer: Michael Krus, Tact Design (tactdesign.ca).
Style of project: A reimagining of an already usable space.

The overall attic space here is around 55 square metres with the pictured living area taking up about half of that. The attic had previously been used as a dining room but the home's new owners wanted it re-created simply as a comfortable space to relax and spend time in. Interior designer Michael was able to work with the tricky shape of the room to enhance natural light and give the space an inviting and considered feel.

To make the best use of the headroom available, storage was built into the eaves, behind floating short partitions that sit on the other side of the TV and the sofa. Indirect lighting was added behind the partitions, making the room seem wider and more functional. To maximise the light from the large south-facing window and skylight, a pale-toned variety of maple hardwood flooring was chosen. The crisp white treatment is always a safe bet for those wanting to amp up the light factor, so the ceiling and partitions were painted in a matte white tone.



The TV shelf made to complement the flooring is a custom piece designed by Michael Krus.



The attic was part of a reno that took about four months in total. This room took only a couple weeks of that, to refinish the floor, paint and do some drywall and electrical work.

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1

TILES

A tumbled edge softens this practical tile and plays on its natural character. 'Zagora' tumbled limestone **tile** (400mm x 400mm), \$132/sqm, Byzantine Design, byzantinedesign.com.au.

MIRROR CABINET

Introduce light and storage in one. 'Storjorm' **mirrored cabinet** with built-in lighting, from \$299, IKEA, ikea.com.au.



key to success
Contemporary finishes bring a refined feel to this space while the striking original beams are a rustic, characterful element

BATH

Give your bathroom the luxury edge with a freestanding designer bath. 'Mojo Oval 1800' **bath**, \$4899, Marblo, marblobathware.com.au.



2

BEANBAG

Ever met a kid (or a dog) who didn't love a beanbag? This one will make the planet happy, too. 'Original Jeanbag' recycled-jean **beanbag**, \$499, Jeanbag, jeanbag.com.au.



SISAL

Durable and easy to clean, flat-weave sisal is great in high traffic areas but also a good option for bedrooms. 'Spice' **sisal floorcovering** in Natural, \$66/sqm, Green Flooring Solutions, greenflooringsolutions.com.au.

SHELVES

Make the most of shelf space to keep study stations clear. A pop of colour adds personality to a kids' zone. 'Tutemo' open **cabinets** in Light Blue and Yellow, from \$35 each, IKEA, ikea.com.au.

key to success
Smart division of this area allows a study zone, reading nook and sleeping spot to exist in the one kid-friendly space



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3

SHOWERHEAD

There's nothing like a good downpour at the end of the day. 'RainCan' **showerhead**, \$470, Kohler, kohler.com.au.

VANITY

A timber vanity will soften up the clinical edges of a tiled bathroom. Issy By Zuster 'Z8' **shaving cabinet and vanity**, POA, Reece, reece.com.au.



TILES

Steer away from white and into a grey palette for a look that works for him and her. 'Argila Olive' **tiles** in Shadow (75mm x 300mm), from \$99/sqm, Beaumont Tiles, beaumont-tiles.com.au.

TAP

Contemporary fixtures define this space. Phoenix 'Kubus 200' curved wall-mounted **bath outlet**, \$302, Reece, as before.

key to success
White grout highlights the tiles' moody tones, which complement the sleek fittings and fixtures



4

WOOD HEATER

You can't beat a real fire for a warm welcome. This one features an ash pan for easy cleaning and a spot to boil a kettle. 'Morso 1410' cast-iron **wood heater**, \$1499, Abbey Fireplaces, thefireplace.com.au.



FLOORING

Maple is popular in the Northern Hemisphere for its tones and hardwearing properties. Get the look with **flooring** in New England Oak, from \$70/sqm, Boral Timber, boral.com.au/timber.



key to success
A crisp and clean palette is warmed up with timber elements, while the wood heater turns this space into a cosy winter retreat

PAINT

Benjamin Moore 'Chantilly Lace' paint has a matte finish which adds a soft ambience, and Dulux has a close match. 'Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology' **paint** in Lexicon Quarter, \$41.45/1L, Dulux, dulux.com.au.

ENTERTAINMENT UNIT

Recycled timber comes full of character, complete with bolt holes from a life lived to the fullest. 'Slab' Oregon-timber **bench**, from \$2850, Mark Tuckey, marktuckey.com.au.

