

TOP TIPS FOR RENOVATING A QUEENSLANDER





QUEENSLANDERS ARE ONE OF THE ICONIC DESIGNS THAT MAKE THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND SUCH AN EXCITING PLACE FOR ARCHITECTURE AND HOME DESIGN

Originating in the 1840s, the style was created for a sub-tropical climate and was characterized by its elevation above ground, which helped keep temperatures cool by increasing ventilation. They were also known for being built primarily of timber, and including huge shaded verandahs, stained glass windows, ornate handrails, and balustrades. While the style is most commonly found in Queensland, there are many Queenslander-style homes across the country. In recent years, the style has taken off, with many crafting custom homes that replicate the iconic style. Some have even taken to buying original Queenslanders and renovating them to better suit a modern lifestyle.

But what does a Queenslander renovation entail? And how can I make the most of my unique structure, while still making it suitable for contemporary living? Read on to find out.

ESTABLISH HOW YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S LIVEABILITY

The Queenslander was originally designed to adapt to the local climate. Raised timber structures on stumps with large shaded verandahs meant the house design kept cool by drawing air up from beneath. After the Second World War, a majority of the Queenslander verandahs were enclosed to make additional internal space for the booming population.

But in today's advanced age, most Queenslanders are in need of a revamp and a modernised interior. Oftentimes these homes have experienced multiple alterations over the years that have resulted in many of them being dark, pokey, and haphazardly designed.

A simple way you can renovate your Queenslander without ruining or interfering with the original charm of the home is by changing the layout. You can knock down walls to create an open-plan interior, and add a more spacious verandah crafted in the Queenslander cottage style. These little improvements will make your home more inviting, and create a more sunlit, airy and consequently livable space.



MAXIMISE SPACE

If you're looking to create more space in your Queenslander but you don't want to encroach on precious outdoor space, you may be able to create additional internal space by raising and building under the Queenslander. If you don't want to undertake that kind of extensive work, and if you're happy to lose some of your lawn, it might be simpler to extend out onto the existing dwelling and possibly repurpose existing rooms.

CONSIDER ANY CHARACTER OR HERITAGE OVERLAYS

While all these aspects - especially creating a design that adheres to overlays - may seem burdensome, an experienced builder with specialist knowledge about Queenslanders will be able to make the process a breeze. You'll want to work with someone who has many years of experience working with Queenslanders and will respect the charm of the existing structure while creating solutions and that brings its functionality into the present day.

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CREATE ADDITIONAL INTERNAL SPACE BY RAISING AND BUILDING UNDER THE QUEENSLANDER



KNOW WHAT APPROVALS ARE REQUIRED

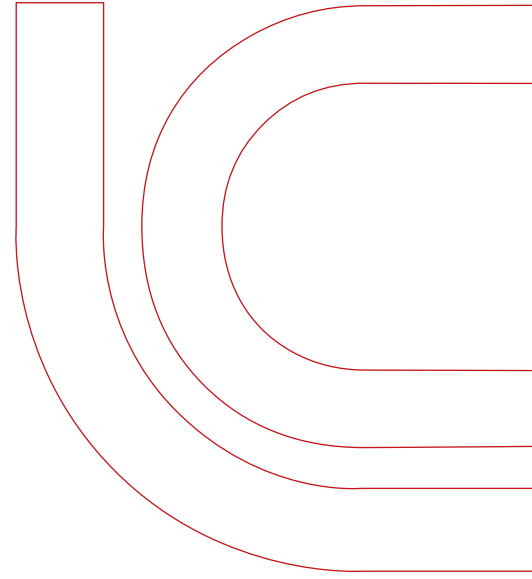
Most alterations to Queenslanders will require Building Approval, the extent of which will vary depending on the specifics of the works. These can often be self-assessable but may require additional supporting authorizations. For more significant renovations, Development Applications will also be required. In this case, an application for the proposed works will be assessed and need to be approved by the Brisbane City Council. An experienced builder will be able to manage this and help you obtain approval to renovate your Queensland.



GET **INSPIRED**

Work out what exactly you want out of your Queenslander, and what style you want to channel in your home. It's important to spend time online browsing platforms such as Instagram, Pinterest, or online housing publications to get inspired, gather ideas, and settle on a style. You'll also be able to explore how others have renovated their Queenslanders and use it to shape your design. Another great way of finding inspiration and choosing a builder is by looking through each prospective builder's portfolio of completed projects.

By gathering inspiration and ideas, you'll have the resources to work out how you're going to meld the heritage charm of the original structure with modern-day elements.



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ADAPT YOUR QUEENSLANDER TO SUIT A MODERN LIFESTYLE

As older structures, many Queenslanders were built with the sole function of serving as shelter. But as lifestyles have changed - with more leisure time and entertainment built into our every day - it's important your home speaks to those essential elements. A renovation is an opportunity to transform a character home into a highly functional space that can accommodate the living, working and entertaining needs of its owners.

WORK WITH YOUR BUILDER

The beauty of working with an experienced builder is that they can bring their invaluable design and building expertise to the table. You should ensure that you engage with them early so you can receive guidance about your project, and also be made wary of potential risks to avoid.



**IS IT TIME TO MAKE YOUR QUEENSLANDER DREAM HOME A REALITY?
GET IN TOUCH WITH LINEAR DESIGN + CONSTRUCT TO TALK
THROUGH YOUR RENOVATION TODAY**

CONTACT US NOW



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