

# HomeLiving

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## New roof brings fibro cottage to life

**I**t is hard to believe that this house was until recently a modest fibro cottage with a conventional hip roof.

Its metamorphosis certainly impressed the judging panel at the recent Building Designers Association of NSW award presentation night where it was won the category of best additions and alterations over 80sq m for its Avalon designer Peter Downes.

The brief from owners Janet and Grant Dargue was to convert the humble shack into a contemporary dwelling which would comfortably house a growing family, meet modern lifestyle expectations,

**Peter Downes' award-winning design. Peter maintains that the character of a house is determined largely by the design of the roof**



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and also have that elusive "wow" factor.

To achieve all of this, Peter made two major decisions at the outset.

The first was to replace the existing enclosed rear of the house with an enlarged living area which opens on to the north-facing backyard via folding doors and a new covered veranda.

This not only resulted in a great connection between indoor and outdoor living spaces, but also produced the best possible

result for passive solar design and energy efficiency.

The second decision was to remove the existing conventional roof and throw it away.

This move allowed the character of the house to be completely changed by the addition of a new, dramatically different roof combined with the first-floor addition necessary to accommodate the children's bedrooms.

Peter maintained the character of a house was determined largely by the design of the roof, so this was the logical place to start if you wanted to make a significant change.

Peter said this award was the 12th he'd won since 1999, and he attributed his success to the fact that he specialised in single residences mostly on the northern beaches.

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