

BALCONY BLITZ!

SUNNY WEEKEND SOIREEES ARE NOW A REALITY FOR SYDNEY COUPLE JO & MICHAEL, WHOSE DARK AND DREARY DECK HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A SUN-DRENCHED SANCTUARY – AND ALL FOR JUST OVER \$2500!

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WEEKEND WONDER

Jo and Michael bought their Sydney bungalow in mid-2008 with long-term renovation plans, but the drab back deck needed a quick fix. "The timber balustrade didn't meet council safety standards," says Jo, who yearned for a sunny spot to relax in the mornings. Although the deck was structurally sound, the timber lattice beneath had collapsed and the polycarbonate roof was an eyesore.

In keeping with their tight budget, the railing was removed and a new balustrade was built. Two timber screens were nailed under the deck

and the lattice walls were replaced with curtains. The old roof was removed, bamboo nature reed was nailed down, then the polycarbonate was replaced. "The view looking up is gorgeous; I love being surrounded by nature," says Jo.

A contemporary neutral colour scheme was chosen. The walls and posts were painted with Watty's Solagard 'Wild Yukon'. For the balustrade and trim, we picked Watty's 'Confetti Shower', . The deck and stairs were revitalised with Watty Weathergard Decking Paint in 'Colorbond Jasper'.

"It's changed the way we live"

AN ELEGANT MAKEOVER USES NEUTRAL, EARTH-FRIENDLY TONES MATCHED WITH CRISP WHITES. OUR CLEVER TOUCH? SHOWER CURTAINS PROVIDE A WATERPROOF BACKGROUND TO SHEER DROPS



PREVIOUS PAGE: The new lounge area is ideal for lazy Sunday mornings, complete with a pair of classic Adirondack chairs. **THIS PAGE, ABOVE:** Sheer curtains from Ikea are matched with Freedom shower curtains to create a romantic, layered look. Plantings of Kangaroo Paw Bush Tango, Leptospermum 'Burgundy Queen' and Meema (Hardenbergia violacea) at the base of the

stairs softens the starkness of the home's rear. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The neutral colour palette is a perfect backdrop. An Ikea 365+ dinnerware set in light turquoise (side plates \$5.99/ea; bowls, \$5.99/ea; cup and saucers, \$4.49/ea) is paired with wattle from the garden, while two planters of *Rhipsalis capilliformis* hang just above eye level to create a strong focal point. Stockists on page 177.





BUDGET BREAKDOWN

PAINT: Wattyl Solagard in 'Wild Yukon', \$59.90/4 litres; Wattyl Solagard in 'Confetti Shower', \$59.90/4 litres; Wattyl Weathergard Decking Paint in 'Colorbond Jasper', 4 x \$63.90/L; Universal undercoat, \$29.60/2 litres, from Bunnings.

PLANTS 2 x David Edmond hanging pots, \$65/each; 2 x Rhipsalis capilliformis plants, \$25/each, all from Garden Life; 4 x Kangaroo Paw Bush Tango, \$59.80/each; Leptospermum 'Burgundy Queen', \$87.80; Meema (Hardenbergia violacea), \$87.80, all from House of Eden.

CURTAINS 4 x 2 pack 'Wilma' white sheer curtains, \$19.90/each, Ikea; 2 x 'Seed' Shower Curtains, \$29.95/each, Freedom.

FURNITURE 'Laver' table with four chairs in frosted silver/white, \$119; 'Tolga' side table, \$25, both from Ikea; 2 x 'Patio by Jamie Durie' Adirondack armchairs in white, \$198/each, available exclusively from Big W.

TIMBER Ceiling: Nature Reed, \$430, House of Bamboo. Balustrades: 16 x 5.4m lengths (86m total) of 42 x 18mm treated primed finger joint timber, \$2.45/m. Handrails: 2 x 5.4m lengths (11m total) of 90 x 18mm treated primed finger joint timber, \$4.90/m. Fascia: 2 x 5.4m lengths (11m total) of 66 x 18mm treated primed finger joint timber, \$3.55/m. Screen under deck: 10 x 5.4m lengths (54m total) of 42 x 18mm treated primed finger joint timber, \$2.45/m, all from Mitre 10. (Timber prices may change from store to store.)

Total cost: \$2545.25

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