

Change For The Better

Add value to your home with **Stevie Rose.**

THE AUSTRALIAN property market is booming and you can add even more value to your home with a simple makeover. For those in less lucrative markets, the same principle applies: clever and effective renovation puts you in front. Stevie Rose, who has a background in architecture, carpentry and construction, fell into renovating when she helped a busy friend revamp her house for sale. Not only did the house sell quickly, but over the initial price. So began a business that has given Stevie independence, satisfaction, and success. Renovations can be made simple, says Stevie. Rule one is to focus on the essentials.

A good bathroom and kitchen always add value to a home. "A bathroom that is well designed is pure luxury (think 5-star hotel) and we all love a great bathroom to indulge in. Kitchen designs have been transformed to again make the kitchen the heart of a home. You can also personalise your style (and level of cooking ability) from minimalistic, commercial, through to bells and whistles of a professional foodie," says Stevie.

Once you are focused on what to renovate, rule number two comes into play. "Never accept the cheapest quote without going through all the details. Get three quotes and take the time to qualify the details of what is included or excluded — make sure the quote is detailed. Using unlicensed or unqualified tradespeople may appear to save money — lots of handy people, or even friends are willing to help, however if



After



Before

anything goes wrong you are not covered by insurance."

Once reliable tradespeople are engaged, engage rule number three — planning out the renovation process. "It's good to work on a set start and finish date. This helps to keep the renovation progressing and costs in check."

Those wanting to do the renovations yourself should proceed with caution. "It is going to cost you money. Your home and daily routine are going to be disturbed," says Stevie. "You will have strangers banging

around at 7am and initially destroying something you love. Renovating is stressful!"

Why not engage someone else to manage the process? "This helps remove additional stress, and you only need to liaise with one person rather than an army of 10 burly blokes (sorry but it's still 80% male dominated at the labour end)."

Stevie spends days selecting carpet samples, colour schemes, and ideas for fittings for clients. "I simply leave them overnight for their final

decision. Does it save time and money? Yes." She passes on her industry discounts on furniture, flooring, blinds, appliances and other things you would spend precious hours searching for.

Women, especially, see home as the single most important investment, so Stevie advises you look after it. "Consider your home like your body — it does require ongoing maintenance and will respond well to some good TLC. If there is something you don't like, change it, and then enjoy the difference."

The Transformation

- The original kitchen, above right, while in working order, was drab and lacked storage space.
- The renovated kitchen, above, features soothing tones, wine storage, wood floors and extra pantry space. *Go to: budgethomemakeover.com.au.*

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