

# property renovate



PARADISE: This beachfront home won the 2010 Queensland Building Design Award for Best Renovation over \$600,000.

## Designer builds dream

BY EMILY BLACK  
blackem@journalweekender.com.au

WHEN Glen and Jenny Watson bought this 15-year old, dated, beachfront house for \$850,000 three years ago, the intention was to do a modest renovation to maximise the view.

Once building designer Chris Clout was involved, modesty flew out the window and the result was a win at the 2010 Queensland Building Design Awards for Best Renovation over \$600,000; Best Bathroom and

Best Interior. "I said to Chris I'd either like to stretch the house out over the block and keep it low set, or go upstairs so you can see the views," Glen said.

He said Chris ended up going out and up, but once they saw the plans the family fell in love and they went ahead.

Glen said Chris excelled at meeting his brief, which included integrating environmental sustainability, energy efficiency and recycled materials. He said they used timber from an old Tasmanian bridge on the split-level between the ground floor and

master retreat. "The bridge was 100 years old when they pulled it apart, the timbers were probably 200 years old, so they're 300 to 350 years old," Glen said.

He said they made the original pool into a water tank.

"We put a concrete slab right over the old pool, and it collects all the water from the roof for irrigation and topping up the pool," he said.

Glen said the best piece of the advice he could offer those looking to renovate was to move out.



### Our top 5 tips

#### GLEN WATSON SAYS:

1. Move out while renovating.
2. Only renovate to 30 per cent of the value.
3. Build for the northern sun.
4. Don't put any windows facing west.
5. Support your local trades and suppliers.