



before

make an

BROUGHT TO YOU BY





Kate transforms the front of her house into a welcoming threshold

WORDS KATE GRIFFITH PICTURES GREGORY MCBEAN
STYLING KAREN DUGGAN DIAGRAMS STEPHEN POLLITT

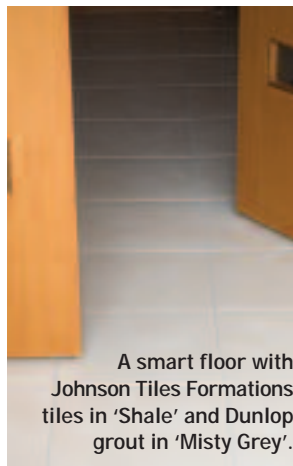
My 1970s brick and weatherboard home looked dated and seriously lacked any street appeal. The amber glass, maroon trims and bricked arches were probably masterpieces in their day, but that day was long gone. It was time to dig deep for some DIY know-how.

The entry to a home is the first impression visitors receive, so is often a high-maintenance area. By selecting durable materials and hardy plants, my threshold now looks good and is relatively care-free.

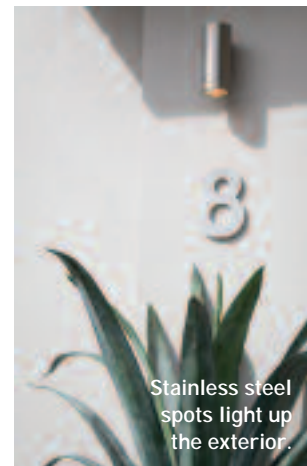
entrance



The Madison double entry by Corinthian Doors replaces the sliding glass windows.



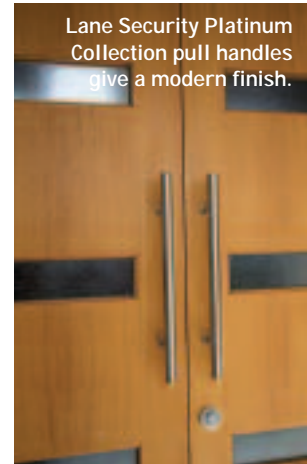
A smart floor with Johnson Tiles Formations tiles in 'Shale' and Dunlop grout in 'Misty Grey'.



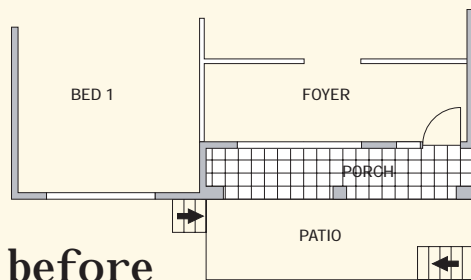
Stainless steel spots light up the exterior.

BIG PICTURE

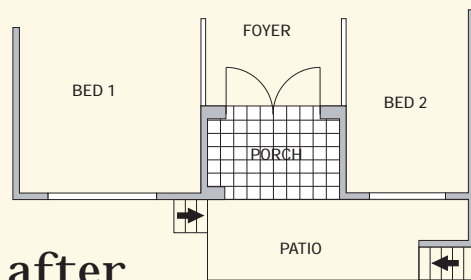
Planning an external makeover doesn't apply just to the house. Look at the layout of the block, especially the landscaping. A great look can be achieved by harmonising garden beds, driveway and the grand entrance.



Lane Security Platinum Collection pull handles give a modern finish.



before



after

THE GRAND PLAN

I redesigned the front completely, moving the entrance to the middle of the house and adding timber windows on either side. A cement render transformed the look of the house, and the new layout means I can welcome visitors in style.

CONCRETE MAKEOVER

The old concrete was whipped into shape with two coats of Watty Permo-Pave Non-Slip Paving Paint in 'Iron Grey' for a slip-free area. It's a great product to use on concrete, asphalt or timber surfaces including patios, walkways, steps and pool surrounds.

LOOKING GOOD

WINDOWS I bought the timber windows from Bunnings. They have standard sizes, but you can also have them custom made through the Special Orders desk.

Homeview Windows are fully assembled and ready for painting. They come with glass and lockable hardware, with frames in aluminum or timber such as meranti, western red cedar and pre-primed pine.

DOORS If space permits, double doors make a grand front feature. I went to Corinthian Doors, which has a huge range of modern styles and finishes, and they're available through major hardware stores.

LOCKS AND HANDLES I chose 450mm long pull handles from the Lane Security Platinum Collection, along with a roller mortise lock for easy operation, and a double deadlock cylinder for security.

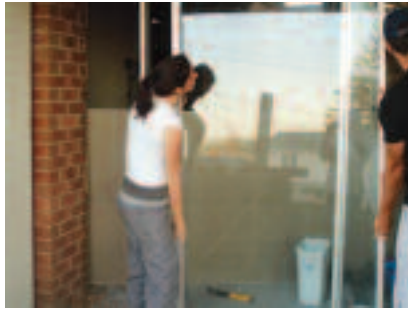
Cost

The total cost of this makeover was just under \$9500. Materials came to \$4513, with the remaining covering professional help for bricklaying, rendering, carpentry, electrician, tiling, locksmith and equipment hire.

creating a new entrance



1 **Jackhammer the old tiles**
Anything not staying will need to be removed so new brickwork can begin. Jackhammer up old tiles to reveal the original concrete slab.



2 **Out with the old**
A front entry overhaul can't be completed in a day, so remove old doors and windows in stages to ensure the house remains secure and weatherproof during construction.



3 **Install new windows**
Replace old aluminium windows with new timber awning-style ones. Lift them into place and install flashing at the sill. Fix into place at three points down either side.



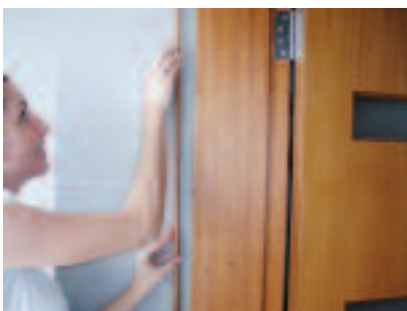
4 **Lay new brickwork**
Have a bricklayer key the new bricks into the old brickwork to ensure the cement render won't crack later. Sills at the bottom of the new windows were square-set for a modern look.



5 **Hang the new doors**
Fix a timber jamb to the new brick nibs and hang the doors using three hinges each. **TIP** I ordered the jamb and doors together to ensure a similar timber and a perfect fit.



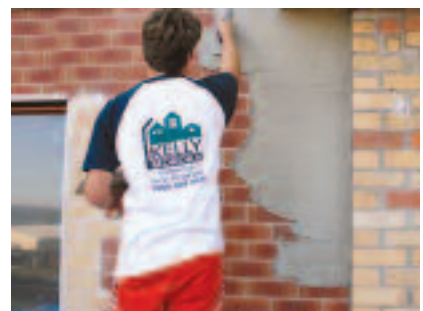
6 **Stain the timberwork**
Protect new timber against the weather by using an exterior stain. **TIP** I used two coats of Sikkens HLS in Light Oak as a basecoat, followed by two coats of Sikkens Super Natural Top Coat.



7 **Fit the timber quad**
Once windows and doors are in place, stain and measure 15mm timber quad to fit around the external frames. Apply a light bead of Selleys Liquid Nails along the back of the quad and fix in place with bullet head nails.



8 **Install locks and handles**
Fitting mortise locks is a specialised job requiring skill and patience. It may be more efficient to call in a professional to ensure doors remain undamaged.



9 **Render the brickwork**
Cement render gives old brickwork an instant makeover. For a smooth render finish it's best to use a professional, but DIY if you like the bagged effect.



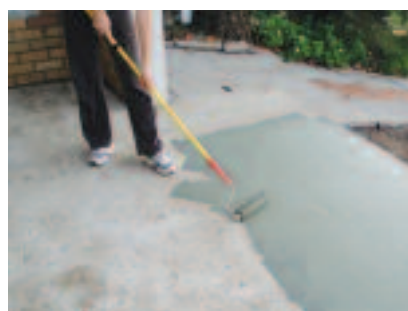
10 **Paint the exterior**
 Acrylic render can be applied without waiting for the cement to cure. Mask up around timberwork and doors, then apply two coats of exterior paint with roller and brush.



11 **Tile the foyer**
 Lay tiles in a stack bond pattern throughout the entire foyer and porch area, and leave it to set overnight.
TIP I had a professional tiler do this job using 300mm x 300mm Johnson Tiles from Bunnings.



12 **Grout the tiles**
 Squeegee grout into the joints, then lightly sponge off the excess.
TIP When the grout has dried, wipe away smears using warm water mixed with white vinegar.



13 **Paint the paving**
 Freshen up old concrete by sweeping on a solution of 10:1 water to muriatic acid, then hose off and leave to dry. Apply paving paint with a roller, rolling in one direction for a smooth finish.

Suppliers

DOORS & WINDOWS

Corinthian Doors www.doors.com.au
 Homeview Windows www.homeview.com.au
 Lane Security from ITW Proline
 1300 721 738 www.itwproline.com.au

JACKHAMMER AND CEMENT MIXER

Kennards www.kennardshire.com.au

PAINT

Wattyl www.wattyl.com.au

TILES

Dunlop www.dunlopdij.com

Johnson Tiles www.johnsontiles.com.au

Materials

Visit www.handyman.net.au for costs, tools and materials to make over a front entrance.