



CASE STUDY

# Glennifer Residence

## Background

Nestled in the leafy suburb of Wahroonga on Sydney's upper north shore, "Glennifer" is a beloved family home with a rich history. First built on land that was subdivided as part of the Toohey's Estate Warrawee in 1925, the original residence was a Californian bungalow owned by an engineer, David Craig, and his wife Elizabeth, and later reclassified into the Wahroonga local area.

In 1980, the then-owners of the property completed a major extension which turned into a substantial rebuild, completely transforming the dwelling as a result.

## Challenge

"When we bought the home to live in, we knew it needed work but like most things, until we got into renovating, we did not really appreciate the true extent of the work," says the current homeowner, Glenda Green. "We had to replace the roof and associated timber barge and fascia in a way that maintained the look of the home as per the architect's original vision, but also modernised it for today's living."

The owners wanted to replace the rotting timber with timber-look cladding (Decoclad) in order to maintain the original feel of the dwelling. To some extent, that decision dictated the overall style of the residence, and - as a result - the owners wanted to find a bathroom range that would complement the timber look of the cladding.



## Solution

"The Elvire range was perfect," Glenda says. Caroma's collection offered the requisite functionality of a sleek, modern bathroom suite, with an added aesthetic edge - timber-look accents across the fittings that would fit perfectly with the overall aesthetic of the Glennifer house. "There are four full bathrooms, and two guest toilets in this home, over two different floors," says Glenda. "So the bathroom fittings were a key element of our interior design."

Additions like the Elvire Cleanflush® Invisi Series II® Wall Hung Toilet and the Elvire Toilet Roll Holder with Shelf provided an understated, yet effective, complement to each other, and a valuable contribution to the biophilic touch the timber accents brought to the bathrooms.

Similarly, the muted tones of gunmetal and dark timber across the tapware, typified in the Elvire Progressive Basin Mixer and Elvire Progressive Freestanding Bath Filler, provided an earthy counterpoint to the matte whites of the Elvire Freestanding Bath 1700 and other basins. Thermogroup supplied a matching gunmetal heated towel rail as well that perfectly complimented the range.

"In planning the layout for each of the bathrooms, it was important to maximise the use of the space and create a streamlined, clean space, and also allow for movement of limbs within the space - my eldest son is 6 foot 9 inches tall, so we had the added complication of ensuring heights were accommodated," adds Glenda. The variable height positioning options on key fixtures such as the toilet and basins was just what they were looking for.

But perhaps most inspiring of all is the role the Elvire range played in informing the overall design of the house. "The easy continual flow effect of all the bathrooms having the same Elvire product range, helped us decide that we, of course, wanted the same tile throughout the house as well," says Glenda. "So what was initially chosen for its rustic Australian timber look as a range in our bathrooms, evolved into a concept that assisted us in other choices of complementary products in other areas of the home, inside and out. The timber theme was also carried by the blackbutt timber flooring in the kitchen and decking, and further enhanced by an Australian rock/pebble theme into the landscaping (designed by Seasoul Landscapes).

Glenda is pleased that while making their house distinctively theirs, they were able to pay homage to its past in the process - something Caroma's Elvire range was instrumental in achieving. "We called our home "Glennifer" not because my name is Glenda, but because David and Elizabeth Craig in 1925 chose that as the name of the property," she says. "We wanted to honour them in the history of what is now our home."

*"Caroma's collection offered the requisite functionality of a sleek, modern bathroom suite, with an added aesthetic edge"*