



U beaut The Bayleys' sympathetic U-shaped addition (top) includes a new master bedroom, patio, dining room and veranda. Perfectly matching gables and timber fretwork have transformed the original, drab rear yard (above).



Full house Antique chairs inherited from relatives take pride of place in the home of Sydney Festival production manager John Bayley and his wife, Cassandra.

Cue applause

When a theatrical producer sets out to transform his family home, you'd expect it to be a show stopper, writes **BECKY BARKER**.

He has helped produce more than 150 shows for Sydney Theatre Company and is a pivotal player in next month's Sydney Festival. But when it came to renovating his Lane Cove home, John Bayley admits his wife took the lead role.

"Cassandra project managed and chose all the materials with our building designer Amanda Holman," says production manager John, who was caught up with the 2006 Sydney Festival when alterations started on their dark, post-World War I bungalow.

"The funny thing was that John was coming home at all hours of the morning to find out what had been done," says Cassandra. "After 16-hour days on the festival, he would roam around with a torch, trying to take photos."

John's passion for the hit January festival, which involves organising hundreds of performers with a new team of volunteers each year, has naturally filtered into his home life. After 15 years in their single-level abode, with sons, Alexander, 15, and Matthew, 11, John and Cassandra have created a freeflowing living space. Quirky collectables, presented as thanks to John or bought after being used in plays, have been carefully

placed around a new, but traditional, rear addition. "All our stuff has a history or a story," Cassandra says, pointing to an enormous, age-worn accountant's desk in the existing dining area and a turn-of-the-century glass and fabric lamp that belonged to John's grandparents. "It's never just been about the house, it's about our particular style of decoration."

Juggling her job with Sydney Children's Choir, being a mum and managing the build was tough. But Cassandra says her builder Mike Blair, of M&S Building Services, and designer were a winning team. They created a U-shaped addition, with master bedroom and dining room, around a light-filled entertaining patio, which gave the family extra space and flow to the rear garden.

"The house won the Building Designer's Association of NSW award for additions under \$125,000," says Cassandra, who shopped around for quotes. "We have always had to put shows together on a shoestring. So I got four quotes and the difference between them was huge. Building with weatherboard also kept the cost down."



Dream setting The U-shape of the rear addition allows light and views of soaring treetops to fill the master bedroom. The house has separate retreats for adults and children.