



**FACT FILE**

**THE BRIEF**

To knock down a small two-bedroom fibro cottage in Wentworthville and in its place build a spacious, two-storey five-bedroom house

**THE OWNERS**

Mahesh and Ila Trivedi and their children Paragi, 28, Hemani, 22, and Ravi, 20

**THE BUILDER**

Wincrest Homes



# Spoilt for choice

Altering a design is a cost-saving idea that can work to suit all your family's lifestyle needs

You could never accuse the Trivedi family of doing things by halves. Gone is the quaint two-bedroom cottage in Wentworthville, making way for a grand, custom-designed five-bedroom two-storey design. Having bought the property with the intention of building their dream home, Mahesh and Ila, together with children Paragi, 28, Hemani, 22, and Ravi, 20, put their recently-acquired 688.8sq m levelled land to good use.

Building to the maximum council regulation of 60 per cent of the floor space ratio to land size, the Trivedi family is now happily swamped for space.

**Transformation**

Mahesh says renovating their cottage was never an option.

"We decided to knock down and rebuild rather than renovate because our old house was a two-bedroom fibro home and it was totally impossible to do anything with it," Mahesh says.

The family, who were previously living

in Seven Hills, were looking to remain in close proximity to the conveniences of Parramatta. Having scoured properties in nearby Westmead, the family ultimately chose Wentworthville.

"We wanted to stay close to Parramatta city. Westmead is a small suburb and not many houses are available with the street view like ours, so we chose the Wentworthville area.

"Another consideration was our temple, which is close by, along with Parramatta Park."

Once they scouted a location, it was time to turn their attention to home designs – and Mahesh says living large

was always the plan. The family's recently completed Aegean II design by Wincrest Homes can only be described as substantial. Mahesh says the family had looked at various two-storey designs at HomeWorld in Kellyville, but this one particularly stood out. And even then, they set about making significant changes to the original floorplan.

**Customised design**

Mahesh says although the Aegean II was selected because it offered a large family room, generous rumpus room and alfresco area, the entire family brainstormed for the eventual design.

"The changes we made were quite huge compared with the original design, but Wincrest Homes agreed to accommodate them all," he says. "These included a creation of a large master bedroom downstairs, complete with walk-in robe and ensuite; a guestroom with a full bathroom, and a prayer room in the centre of our house – a special feature for our family."

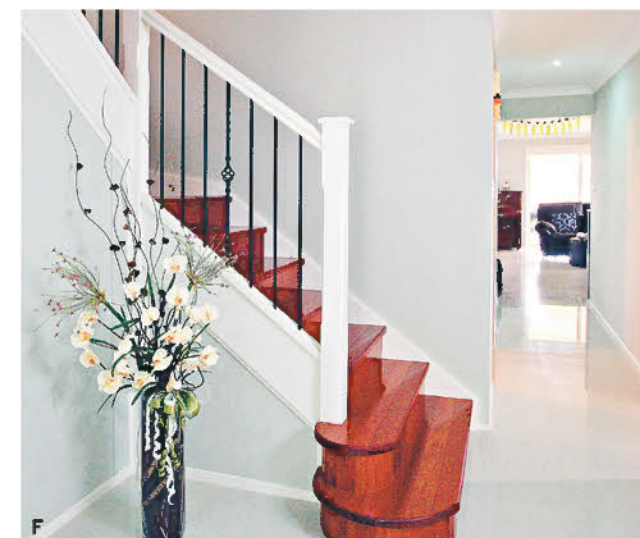
Ultimately, Mahesh says he bought a custom-designed home at a fraction of the price from a project home builder.

"We wanted to have a custom-designed home that would meet our big family needs, with some of our own fantasy ideas included," he says.

After meeting with the Wincrest design team, the top level of the Aegean II was modified from the original four bedrooms, to three larger bedrooms measuring an impressive 4.2m x 4.2m, plus an even bigger living area. The two additional bedrooms were incorporated into the downstairs floorplan.



PHOTOS: BOB BARKER



A The original two-bedroom cottage  
B The facade of the new house  
C Owners Mahesh and Ila Trivedi  
D The entrance leads to the open-plan lounge/dining area  
E The Trivedis have incorporated many special features in the design  
F The hallway leads to the kitchen and family rooms  
G The open kitchen  
H The formal lounge  
I The ensuite



**MAHESH'S ADVICE**

- » Choose a facade that will blend in with the neighbouring streetscape, but still has enough "wow" factor to set it apart
- » Think about your family's needs when choosing a floorplan. If you can't find one that meets the demands of your family, then

choose the closest design to it. Ask the builder about the feasibility of making changes.

- » Aside from the main bedroom, most of the bedrooms in display homes are not super-sized. If you have teenagers, think about enlarging them in the plan.

The Trivedi family now inhabit a five-bedroom home with three full bathrooms and one extra powder room for guests.

Mahesh says they are spoilt for choice when it comes to naming a favourite section of their home, but the two big bathrooms with double vanity and the large bedrooms, all with walk-ins and one with an ensuite are definite frontrunners. The living space, an impressive 54sq m including the kitchen and meals area, is another special feature.

"That gives us a nice feeling of vastness and plenty of daylight through the large windows. In addition, we have a 24sq m rumpus room, which we use as our home theatre," Mahesh says.

**The builder**

Wincrest managing director Gerard Caruana says the Aegean II is a major drawcard for prospective home builders. Its generous living spaces and easily adaptable floorplan makes it an easy sell.

"The expansive living spaces are the major attraction of this house, which also make it highly adaptable," he says.

Gerard says his team is completely open to changing the floorplan to suit the diverse needs of different families.

"We do accommodate a lot of customisation to our homes, to provide our clients with exactly the house they want to live in," Gerard says.

"It provides our clients a richer experience when they are living in a home designed for them and their unique lifestyle. The building timeframe is unaffected, the design and planning will naturally take a few weeks longer, but the results are more than worth a few weeks."

For the facade, the Trivedi family opted for the traditional Regent, which blended in nicely with the local streetscape, without getting lost among some of the other new homes in the neighbourhood.

"We are so proud of our new home design," Mahesh says.

**Catherine Nikas-Boulos**

**MORE INFORMATION**  
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