

An amazing transformation

REVOLVING DOORS



PATRICIA FARRELL
property editor

"A dump" is how architect **Anthony Solomon** describes the 1920s worker's cottage he and wife **Lisa** bought in Kirribilli in 1995.

"It was in the right location, but we didn't like the house at all," he said.

Anthony, a partner in Balmain-based architects Connor and Solomon, set about designing a home that would take full advantage of the site's potential.

"The problem in the North Sydney Council area is that you can't put a first-floor conversion on a small block," Anthony said.

"So we compromised with an attic roof conversion which achieved everything we wanted.

"I'm still amazed at how well it turned out."

The four-bedroom home's light and airy feel is achieved with the extensive use of glass, timber floors and open-plan living areas.

And the 180sq m living area - 80sq m more than the original cottage - affords plenty of romping space for the couple's two dogs and three children - **Effie**, 14, **Oscar**, 13, and **Keturah**, 10.

The terrace off the main bedroom offers harbour bridge and city skyline views.

The property at 70b High St, Kirribilli, is expected to fetch between \$1.5 million to \$1.6 million at auction on November 26. Details: Richardson & Wrench North Sydney's **Catherine Hawkins** on 0412 053 144.

□ EPS Property Search directors **Patrick Bright** and **Debbie Upward** have taken out the real estate category in the 2005 Cham-



Anthony and Lisa Solomon beside the 1920s worker's cottage they transformed in Kirribilli (left), the **Gray family** circa 1910 (top), and **Patrick Bright** (above).

Main picture: SARA NIXON

pion of Champions Small Business Awards.

The North Shore-based buyers' agency won the accolade from a field of contenders from around NSW and the ACT.

Patrick recently published a new book, *The Insider's Guide to Profitable Property Investing*.

□ **Ethel Turner**, author of the 1893 classic *Seven Little Australians*, is closely linked to a property on the market in Wolseley Rd, Mosman.

She was a cousin of the Gray family, the original owners of the home, and played cards there with a group of friends several times a week.

Ethel wrote 40 books in her lifetime but her most-popular by far was her children's book *Seven Little Australians*, which went on to sell two-million copies.

It has since been reprinted more than 50 times and translated into 11 languages. The Wolseley Rd property has been home to **Antonia** and **Dennis Scott** and

their five children for more than 25 years.

"We've restored it back to its original glory," Antonia said.

The five-bedroom Federation home has manicured gardens, polished floorboards and leadlight windows. It is on the market for \$2.9 million through the [white] agency's **Sandie Dunne** on 0414 243 352.

□ Email farrellt@eng.newsltd.com.au or call 9689 5572