

**Resilience works:** Home retrofitted

**Typology:** High-set elevated, lightweight framing which has been built under

Life is slowly returning to normal for this homeowner.

She's back in her 'hood' and once again relishing long outings outside with her dog, along the flat bike paths near her home beside Enoggera Creek. She frequents the Brisbane Broncos Leagues Club and has easy access to her local supermarket.

It's been a tough road back after her home flooded in 2022. "We had fish in the pool, and the boys shovelled multiple skip bins worth of mud from under the house and pool," the homeowner recalls.



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The biggest challenge was the flooding of her lift and its control panel, which was on the ground floor. Compounding matters, the elevator company she used had also flooded.

The homeowner uses a wheelchair. No workable lift meant it was seven months before she was even able to access her home to inspect the flood damage.

During that time, as she struggled to find appropriate rental accommodation to suit her needs, the homeowner started researching flood-resilient strategies for her home.

Raising the lift control panel from downstairs to the upstairs space where her son and his family live was probably the most significant flood-resilient improvement made.

The lower level space is a great example of what smart resilient building can achieve.

The hardwood timber floors didn't need to be replaced. Her kitchen was built back with marine ply, double two-packed for water resilience. The kickboards are removable, meaning they can be taken off before or after a flood event and the area hosed out easily.

The existing pine frame cavity walls were painted to help with future cleaning and prevent mould growth, her doors are now solid core.

The bathroom is a beautiful space with floor to ceiling tiles — the same tiles that are around the pool. The vanity unit is suspended on stainless steel legs.

“We treated the bathroom like a swimming pool — with the tiles, adhesives and epoxy grout all water-resistant,” says her builder Steve, of Arlidge Constructions.

“In her case, as well as being resilient it had to be functional for her. It's all custom built and resilient, so if a flood comes it should just be a matter of hosing the water out.”

For the homeowner, it's brought peace of mind.

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*“I'll probably always have PTSD about water, but this has made a massive difference.”*

– Homeowner