

property renovate



APARTMENT SYNDROME: Building designer Chris Clout won official praise for his work on the Sunshine Beach building.

Renovating with vision

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WHEN Glen and Sarah Irwin bought this apartment, Allure, about five years ago they had a view to renovate it.

Glen says about one year after buying they discovered their neighbour, Trevor, wanted to renovate too and decided to revamp both apartments together. They enlisted the help of building designer Chris Clout to create an external design to suit both tastes, with their individual stamp inside – and with award-winning results.

Chris says the clients were of different demographics, with varied design preferences, but he was able to find common ground on exterior design and delivered entirely separate interior layouts.

“Additions had to be made within the existing shell of the structure, both clients needed an extra bedroom and wanted the rear deck and roof line extended, with the interior to be open to the light and breezes from front to back,” he says.

“The building makes a visual statement, with bold design, bright white walls, warm timber and opaque green glass.”

Glen says Chris came through on his design brief to create a contemporary residence with a beach flair and was very happy with the end result.

“Good friends of ours, who knew the old property before renovated, can’t believe the transformation,” he says.

A key feature of the renovation was the floating staircase. “We agreed that our staircase would be attached to the common wall

in the middle and it would be in exactly the same position on Trevor’s side to our side,” he says.

Glen says they enlisted the help of an engineer who worked with a metal fabricator to design brackets to be drilled through the common wall and could take up to 600kg a step.

“That was maybe a little bit of a challenge, but we knew what we wanted and the fabricators did a great job.

“The staircase looks like it’s almost floating.”

Glen says it is important to spend the money on noticeable features.

“For example, our frosted glass balcony, was not frosted, it was acid wash glass, and it was four times more expensive.

“In the end it is something that is a real wow factor.”



Our top 5 tips

GLEN IRWIN SAYS:

1. Have a clear budget
2. Finish it 100 per cent, not 90 per cent, unfinished items stand out
3. Organisation and communication is paramount on a large project
4. If you can afford it, be the project manager and shop around
5. Spend more money on the bigger features, get it right the first time