



Before.

Custom build comes full circle

BY KAITLIN OKELY

Built by Zorzi Builders in 2002 on the banks of the Swan River in Mosman Park, the Elan was an extremely successful build for the company, winning Home of the Year both locally and nationally.

However, when it was purchased by a new family in late 2016 it was in need of freshening up.

According to Zorzi Design and Development Manager David Reynolds, the new owners, who were living in South Africa, wanted extensive renovations

completed within four months in time for the start of school.

“Design, engineering, structural documentations, selections, council approvals, and a complete deconstruction from the front boundary to the rear boundary had to happen before we could even start work,” he said.

“Everything from design, to selections and agreements was done over Skype and the internet.

“Absolutely no corners were cut due to time or cost, and no substitutes were made in any way to compromise the outcome.”

The brief was to completely change the look to a modern Hamptons feel.

The entire back half of the home was

remodelled and rebuilt, including a new kitchen, living and family area, and the addition of a massive scullery.

Zorzi undertook new landscaping at the front and back of the property, including digging up the concrete pool and replacing it with a new concrete pool on the other side of the site with new glass fencing and water jets.

The cinema, study, master suite, stairs, balustrade, floor and wall finishes were all updated, and a balcony was added over the new alfresco.

“I think the stand-out feature for the home is the alfresco and outdoor area overlooking the swan river,” Mr Reynolds said.

“In the original home there were some angles – a sunken bar that overlooked the pool with a swim-up window.

The entire back half of the home was remodelled and rebuilt, including a new kitchen, living and family area, and the addition of a massive scullery.

“Overall, the barbecue area, with polished tiled floors and framed bi-folds, was somewhat tucked away, something that was reminiscent of that era.

“Today we want open-plan, interactive barbecue/cooking stations, a place where the chef and friends can mingle and be a part of the action as opposed to being segregated from guests.”

To create more space, Zorzi completely stripped the area and extended it by creating an upper-floor concrete balcony, moving the pool as a result.

Bi-fold doors open the inside onto the alfresco, and large single panel windows allow for seamless indoor views.

The sunken space where the original



bar sat was transformed with a push-button, gas-operated fire pit, freestanding tepanyaki-style bar, built-in pizza oven and new cabinets and barbecue.

Modern, earthy tones and textures were used throughout the home, from stone flooring with underfloor heating and stone benchtops, to timber flooring and cabinet finishes in both veneer and lacquer.

“Lots of warmth through the timber and natural finishes, combined with the earthy yet strong colours, meant the house had a modern feel while being very welcoming and homely,” Mr Reynolds said.

“Like many of our clients, this family wanted a home and not a house, something they can spend more time living in and less time working on.

“The home was not simple, but has a very low-maintenance appeal.”

This project was unique for Mr Reynolds, who was involved in the original site selection, purchase, design and build 15 years ago.

He said Zorzi was seeing an increase in clients choosing renovation in lieu of building new – a trend that matches the current economic climate as clients tend to spend 25-50 per cent of the cost of rebuilding.



Before.



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