

Outside OVERHAUL

Trisha Harinath takes you behind the scenes of a home exterior renovation



BEFORE



AFTER



When architect, interior designer and director of Onnah Design, Hanno de Swardt, saw this home he knew it needed some tender loving care – it was neglected and in a “sad state”. He recalls that the home had rotten fascia boards, dirty walls and ugly metal windows. “The overgrown garden also covered the house completely in certain areas,” he says.

The property was purchased as a spec house, and de Swardt says it needed a fresh, new and relevant look that had to be eye-catching yet budget-friendly from a renovation project point of view. The entire home underwent a major overhaul with special attention given to the exterior. The overgrown foliage has been replaced with perfectly manicured landscapes and the once badly neglected exterior can now be likened to an upmarket dream space.

“An existing patio was enclosed with a new roof to increase the interior footprint of the home. A staff room with en suite was converted in part into a new garage adjoining the existing single garage, two new garage doors were installed, and all the windows were replaced with aluminium,” says de Swardt. He mentions that a large outdoor braai and patio area was added to ensure a harmonious flow from the inside to the outside and to reinforce the connection between the living space and garden.

With its new design and gorgeous exterior, this home now offers a slick and contemporary feel that celebrates its original 1960s features in a modern yet timeless manner. De Swardt adds that although this was a major overhaul, the construction process ran relatively smoothly. “It helps when you have a reliable team on board,” he says.

When asked what advice he has for future home owners who are looking to renovate their homes, with attention to the exterior, de Swardt says: “Try to avoid add-ons that are not well thought through and end up looking like an afterthought. Make sure you have a fixed and realistic budget in place even before submitting plans to the council. Ensure you have the approved plans on site when the renovation starts. Invest in a reputable architect to ensure your vision becomes a reality. And finally, make sure you appoint a good builder, which is imperative to a successful project.”

Onnah Design <http://onnahdesign.co.za/>

Q&A WITH HASSIEM JOSEPH, DIRECTOR OF HASSIEM BUILDERS

As a builder, what advice do you have for a successful exterior renovation?

Ensure that the final look is harmonious in terms of look and feel. Ideally any additions should complement the existing building in terms of architectural style and layout. These add-ons need to be structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

What are your top five tips for a successful exterior renovation?

1. Choose durable finishes and ensure that any new external windows and doors line up with existing ones. They need to be of the same style, colour and finish.
2. The powerful impact of external lighting, both practical and cosmetic, cannot be underestimated, so make provision for enough lighting where required.
3. The exterior of a building has a direct relationship with the garden and landscaping. Ensure an easy flow between inside and outside, and allow the exterior renovation to reinforce and complement the connection between inside and outside.
4. If the renovation involves the addition of new roofs, ensure that proper stormwater drainage and proper waterproofing is in place.
5. Always consider the bigger picture and ensure the design solution allows for flexibility and possible future extensions.

What is your must-have renovation checklist?

- ✓ Budget.
- ✓ Council-approved plans.
- ✓ Timeline/building project duration.
- ✓ Site access and security.
- ✓ A place to stay during a renovation, especially if the renovation is a complete overhaul. This needs to be budgeted for as well.
- ✓ Completion/occupation certificates where required. 🏠

With thanks to Hassiem Builders and Onnah Design

Before images: Hanno de Swardt; After images: Mat van Niekerk, Viewfinder Photography

