

James Street Duplex Units

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For my first practical I designed the interior and exterior for a new 2-story duplex building in the suburbs of Adelaide on a pre-existing site - 30 James Street Plympton 5038. For the family friendly units, I created a mood board, floorplan, flooring, interior and exterior perspective views along with landscaping. These duplex units were designed for a young family with a modern, contemporary style in the medium density area between city and beach. My parents have always talked about knocking down their old property in Adelaide and replacing it with separate units but are yet to start so I took on the challenge of designing these units to match their wants and needs, saving them time in the future. I started by exploring all the requirements at both personal and council levels which formed the basis of my plans for the build.

As my parents were my clients, they heavily influenced the style and features of the units. My mum helped develop the contemporary style of the house whilst my dad gave me an insight to the architectural aspects due to his experience in carpentry. Having this support meant the building was drawn and designed to a high standard. The exterior and landscaping were both developed after exploring the houses in surrounding streets using CRIG analysis, allowing me to make my design fit in as well as stand out. The façade, however, was influenced from architecture company Mojo Homes combined with the 'Building a New Home' guide, specifically the hip styled roof over the individual balconies. Amber Interiors and Oak and Orange helped to further develop my style for the interior of the units. The light earthy tones complemented the organic shapes, wooden textures, brushed brass and light textiles to form a simplistic, earthy but modern aesthetic. The Three Birds Renovation team taught me to style a space utilising natural light and organic shapes making the units practical and functional to meet my design brief.

Overall, the aspects of my final piece had the perfect aesthetic. The interior had the boho, minimalistic elements the client requested with white walls and warm earthy tones and wooden features. The exterior complimented the inside with neutral tones and wooden aspects repeated through the garage.

The small selection of plants made the whole duplex look complete, but I could have used a rendering program to make it more realistic. Unfortunately, I didn't have access to the technology needed to take this next step. I tried completing floor plans in Photoshop, but the scale was off, so I moved straight into SketchUp, a 3D architectural program. Reflecting, I believe I met the design brief almost perfectly as I was able to create a simplistic, modern, 4-bedroom house for a young family.

My style has developed further than I thought possible as designing to match someone else's brief challenged the way I saw things. My skillset has improved greatly in conjunction with this. Learning how to use a new program, SketchUp, was tricky at first but I feel more confident in my ability now along with a greater understanding of the logistics of building a house.