

# New life in old walls

GREEK ex-pats will recognise this old building.

Built about 100 years ago, "Kastellorizo" was one of the most gracious residences on Hay Street, West Perth.

The building has had numerous additions and name changes during its lifetime — some people would remember it as "Wiluna".

But having lost much of its original character, it eventually slid into disuse and disrepair.

Over the past 10 years, the building deteriorated badly, squatters moved in, original elements like timber doors, architraves and fireplace surrounds were vandalised or stolen and demolition appeared inevitable.

But Joondanna architect John Kannis decided the stately residence should not go the way of many of its neighbours and be turned into anonymous high-rise offices.

He has restored it to its former glory, demolishing some of the later additions.

Some of the missing items were reproduced purely from memory, there being no documented records available.

Detailed balustrades, friezework and ornamental brackets on the timber verandahs were fitted, the colour scheme based on the traditional colours.

The expensive renovation was completed in June last year, and the results are clearly worth it.

● LEFT: John Kannis proudly stands before the redeveloped building. BELOW: The building fell into a state of disrepair.

