

From dire to distinctive

ONE of a group of eight two-storey town houses vacant for three years, badly vandalised and looking ready for demolition is an entry in the Master Builders Housing Excellence contest.

George Stojkos, of SG and R Building Company, rejuvenated the lot and has entered one in the \$40,000-\$60,000 category for alterations and additions.

It was a case of getting back to basics and renewing all the services, as well as having the structures conform with the latest building codes.

He was able to keep the original walls, and restore and repaint the brickwork and different plaster finishes, indoors and out.

"When I first pulled up and saw the mess, my reaction was: 'Oh, hell!'," the builder said.

After five months, and working to architectural drawings from J.

Kannis and Associates, he can now admire a distinctive contemporary complex.

The town house entered has a jaunty roof to a double carport, sweeping up in a gentle curve like an Opera House sail.

There is a play on angles to the carport walls and this is mirrored in the new letter boxes.

In the renovations the kitchen, the laundry, the bathroom and the toilet were gutted and are all-new, and the main bedroom, one of three upstairs, was given a wall of wardrobes.

The kitchen has a tiled splash-back between the bench and wall cupboards, a slim-line range hood above an upright gas stove, a double-drainer sink and a pantry unit.

The floor tiles extend into the adjoining laundry.

The open timber treads of the suspended staircase have been rejuvenated. The staircase makes little visual intrusion into the main living room downstairs.

The new bathroom upstairs gets a wide shower and towelling area and a new vanity cupboard. A double-



door linen press is close to the bedrooms.

While the street elevations have been given special attention, there is also a paved outdoor living area and new fences at the back.

FRANK PLATELL

MASTER BUILDERS HOUSING EXCELLENCE AWARDS ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

CATEGORY: \$40,000 - \$60,000
SUBURB: Langford
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