

The era-sensitive makeover gave a whole range of suppliers an opportunity to showcase their wares.

## GET THE LOOK

- \* **Interiors:** Essence Interiors, phone: 0411 348 761, [www.essenceinteriors.com.au](http://www.essenceinteriors.com.au)
- \* **Kitchen benchtop:** Granite Transformations, [www.granitetransformations.com.au](http://www.granitetransformations.com.au)
- \* **Artwork:** Salu Art, Mount Hawthorn, phone: 9443 3875, [www.saluart.com](http://www.saluart.com)
- \* **Wallpaper:** Scandinavian Wallpaper & Decor, Jolimont, phone: 9387 1549, [www.wallpaperdecor.com.au](http://www.wallpaperdecor.com.au)
- \* **Select furniture and manchester:** Manifis Station Wholesale Provincial Interiors, Mount Hawthorn, phone: 9200 7480, [www.manifisstation.com.au](http://www.manifisstation.com.au)
- \* **Lamps:** Halo Lighting, East Perth, phone: 9221 5544, [www.halolighting.com.au](http://www.halolighting.com.au)
- \* **Rugs:** Hiphome rugs from Quintessential Agencies, Jolimont, phone: 9383 9198
- \* **Children's furnishings:** Ball and Skittle Children's Emporium, Mount Hawthorn, phone: 9444 7175, [www.ballandskittle.com.au](http://www.ballandskittle.com.au)

# DECO-RATION

The Golden Age of Hollywood comes alive in this exciting rejuvenation of an art deco classic in the Perth CBD

**I**NTERIOR stylist Simone Gillespie had her work cut out for her when she was asked to give a speedy budget makeover to an apartment in Perth's historic Lawson building in the CBD.

The striking art deco landmark building, on the corner of The Esplanade and Sherwood Court, was built in 1937 and has been preserved and maintained to such a high degree that the Heritage Council of WA describes it as "a fine example of inter-war commercial palazzo style".

Simone says it was like stepping back in time when she entered the sixth-floor apartment, which the investor-owner commissioned her to overhaul for \$25,000 (unexpected contingencies bumped the total price to \$26,500).

"I was so blown away by the building and its location that I almost expected a 1930s or '40s Hollywood siren to walk in," she says. "Then I had an epiphany and decided to make the apartment look like an old-style movie set. I think a lot of people thought I was quite mad, but after a while they clicked and got onboard to help me pull it off."

In just two and a half weeks, Simone and

her team transformed the musty old accommodation into an art deco masterpiece, with the bulk of the budget going on painting, new carpet and curtains.

"The worn, dusty rose carpet was so old its edges were stained black. There was chipped paint on the skirtings, the walls were painted in a buttery yellow shade and the windows were covered with heavy pink pelmets and blackout drapes that ruined the river views," Simone says.

"By the time we gutted the place and fixed this, we didn't have the money to replace the mushroom brown tiles in the kitchen so we repainted them. Three coats of paint later, they look great."

Removing the rusty range hood, replacing the cracked, green-tiled benchtop with stone-veneer, revarnishing the original timber cabinetry and installing a new sink and cooktop capped off the kitchen revamp.

"You have to be a bit savvy and know when to spend money and when a lick of paint or some new door handles will do the job just as well," Simone says.

Her budget-conscious approach is also evident in the bathroom.

"The bathroom tiles were fine," she says, "but the vanity was made of cheap, white melamine."

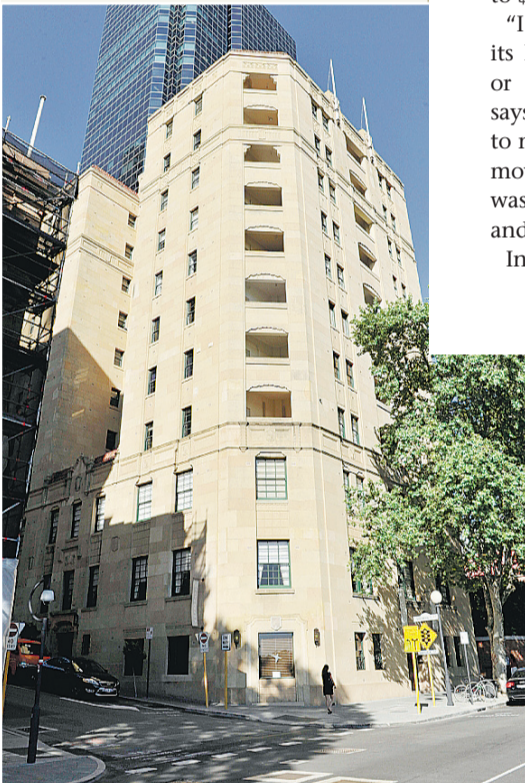
"I was able to find a beautiful, freestanding vanity that slotted right in from an importer for \$500. Changing the taps in the shower helped, too."

Once the structural work was complete and the budget exhausted, Simone called on some of her colleagues to deck out the apartment temporarily with art deco-inspired artworks, furniture, lamps and rugs.

"It was a grand, old apartment that had been neglected for far too long and as a tribute to a bygone era, a lot of suppliers agreed to display their wares in it so that it could be admired in an authentic context," Simone says.

"So many people came together to make my vision materialise and I can't thank them enough."

Sandra Peterson



before





# Design Extend Renovate

Often the smartest move is to simply **extend or renovate**.



BEFORE



>> AFTER



Modern Home Improvers have grown to be one of Perth's leading home extension and improvements specialists. Catering for both single and double storey home extensions.

Design, extend or renovate. We can transform your house with a complete or partial makeover to suit your budget. From a kitchen family room renovation through to a two-storey extension, our experienced design team will develop your ideas and create a 3D image to give you a real sense of the possibilities. We will then begin the transformation that will convert your dreams into reality.

To build on your imagination call **9244 1993** or visit [www.modernhomeimprovers.com.au](http://www.modernhomeimprovers.com.au)



**MODERN HOME**  
IMPROVERS

**MULTI AWARD WINNING** recognised for building workmanship, innovation & professionalism.

HIA Award Winner 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007 | HIA Finalist 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010  
MBA Award Winner 1998, 2004 | MBA Finalist 1994, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010