

Max's Place Refurbishment

It took more than two weeks, 800 hours of work, hundreds of thousands of dollars donated in time and materials, and dozens of generous helping hands, but we're there – and we are absolutely thrilled to reveal the results!

For two weeks during August, a very special project was taking place in three small apartments across the road from The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

These three apartments, lovingly known as 'Max's Place', provide short to medium term accommodation for families with children undergoing heart surgery and ongoing treatment at the hospital. The owners, Heather and Tim Round, took out additional mortgages on their Adelaide home in 2002 to set up the accommodation and support network after tragically losing their son Max at just 13 days old to a heart condition. They wanted to help other families going through hardships similar to their own so families can be near their sick children in a quiet, private space without the added stress of unplanned financial demands.

After housing families for more than 10 years, Max's Place was in need of a facelift – and that's where Canny came in.

HeartKids Victoria and luxury home designer and builder, Canny Group, joined forces earlier this year in the name of helping support families of children with heart disease. To launch this partnership, Canny, with the help of a range of incredibly generous suppliers and trades, took on the task of designing and project managing the refurbishment of Max's Place, transforming the tired, well-worn apartments into comfortable and bright 'home away from home' spaces, to provide respite to exhausted, stressed families after long days spent at the hospital.

"Once we heard about Max's Place, Heather and Tim's incredible story and the amazing, life-changing work of HeartKids Victoria there were no two ways about it – we had to do whatever we could to help", said Canny's Managing Director, Damian Canny.

"The amount of emotional and financial relief that Max's Place offers the families who stay there is enormous and makes such a big difference to their lives. We are absolutely thrilled to complete this project and to see the smiles on the faces of families that have moved in since makes it all worthwhile!"

The brief wasn't easy.

Located within a larger apartment block with neighbours above, below and beside, major demolition or movement of services within the apartments was largely out of the question. The design needed to appeal to adults and children alike, and be hardwearing, with many families staying for months at a time. The focus for the team was on stripping the apartments bare and starting again to create a light, fresh and comfortable environment.

With space at such a premium, creating effective, functioning kitchens and bathrooms was essential. All have been completely retiled, with new appliances and fittings installed. Simple and effective joinery and state-of-the-art, space-saving appliances are also standout features. User-friendly drawers have replaced old cupboards, and contemporary light fittings have added vibrancy.

Natural light in these south-facing apartments was not abundant, so light and bright colours were applied throughout the living areas. Flooring, lighting and wall furnishings have all been replaced, and contemporary storage fitted. 'Right size' furniture has been introduced, creating a feeling of added space, all pieces selected with durability and ease of cleaning in mind.

New robes and bedware improve the liveability in the bedrooms, the warmth and coziness creating a contrast from the hospital rooms where many daylight hours are spent for residents of each apartment.



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To complete the project, almost all contents – from appliances, cutlery and crockery, right through to board games and colouring books – have been replaced, giving the apartments a lovely new home feel.

Between 2 and 16 August Canny designed and coordinated the refurbishment of the apartments with the project value totaling more than \$270,000 at no cost, and more than 20 of their suppliers and trades supported the project.

It wasn't just the bigger businesses lending a helping hand. Through an ongoing fundraising drive across their networks of clients, Canny staff, family and friends, and supporters of HeartKids and Max's Place, Canny raised just short of a further \$10,000 to go towards the charity refurbishment project – one of the most touching donations of all was \$5 from a six-year-old girl who thought her weekly pocket money would be better spent on supporting this unique project.

On behalf of Heather and Tim Round and the families who will be staying at Max's Place in future, HeartKids would like to say a huge thank you to the Canny Group and the following trades and suppliers for all their generous donations of time and materials. We couldn't have done it without you!

- Maxa Build and Drake Construction – Carpentry
- Abco – Waste removal
- Number 1 Painting – Painting
- John Brown Plumbing – Plumbing
- Electech Data & Electrical – Electrical
- GMD Architectural Joinery – Joinery/Cabinetry
- Just Splashbacks – Shower screen and mirrors
- RB Tile – Tiling
- Exel-Seal – Caulking
- Trustone – Stone Mason (benchtops)
- Don Wiltshire Plastering – Solid plastering
- Jay Q Plastering – Plasterboard install
- Budget Tennis Courts – Fake glass for balconies
- Southern Tiles – Floor and wall tiles
- Custom Lighting – Blinds
- NEFF appliances (Sampford IXL) – Stoves and ovens
- Michaels of Brighton – Appliances
- Reece Bathroom Life Armadale – Sanitary ware and sinks
- Laminex – Laminate Board
- Dulux – Dulux paint
- Jordan – Various furniture items
- Bowens – Carpentry materials
- Dandy Choices for Polyfloor – Timber floors (floating)
- Matchbox – Glassware, cookware and kitchen utensils
- Temperature Design – Furniture
- Lincoln Sentry – Cabinet hardware
- Alfa Pak Supplies – Floor and carpet protection
- IKEA – Furniture
- Linen House – bed linen, towels, bathroom accessories
- L&H Group – electrical supplies
- Caesarstone – stone bench tops
- Holly Pearce – hand-painted wall art

Check out Canny's Max's Place refurbishment to see the transformation for yourself!

Visit: www.youtube.com/canny2012

