



residential renovations

about base

Base is a boutique, multi award winning firm committed to producing only the highest quality of architecture and interiors. It was established in 2005 and is headed by director Shawn Godwin. **Base** is recognised for inventive thinking, creative flair and outstanding service. We may be a small firm, but we are a design powerhouse. Our capabilities are broad and continually evolving.

Base has a highly expert team specialising in designing residential renovations across a range of scales from small scale cottages, to expansive existing homes. We have a proven record spanning over a decade with multiple award winning houses, and more importantly, we continue to exceed the expectations of owners and their families. We are committed to delivering personalised, site responsive, and efficient solutions, empathetic to the existing character of your existing home.

At **Base**, we understand the endless opportunities presented in renovation projects to completely refresh and rejuvenate an existing home tailored specifically for you! Within our renovation projects, we respond empathetically to the existing character and condition of the site, and will be guided by you as to whether you are looking for a seamless integration between the old and the new aesthetic, or if you would like a complete contemporary contrast for your renovation.

Furthermore, we enjoy the challenges presented when designing within the constraints of an existing building structure; and we will always strive to achieve an efficient, cost-effective and unified renovated home which your family will love living in for many years to come.



OUR VIEW ON RENOVATIONS

Understanding your family:

At Base, we understand every family is unique and the way you occupy your home not only changes throughout the day; but will continually evolve over the months and years to come. We aim to understand as much as we can about how your family will use the spaces, and craft them to your bespoke needs, to achieve the best possible solution, always with the considerations of site and budget in mind. We will seek to understand what aspects you love about your existing home, or what you think needs improvement, in order to tailor the design of your renovation to your specific needs and lifestyle.

Understanding your site:

A large part of how you experience your home is its location and connection to surroundings. We pride ourselves on understanding the details and nuances of every site we work on; whether it be maximising breezes and natural light, or accessing the views and vistas across the suburb or city. Whether you have lived on the site before and are familiar with site conditions, or are renovating on a newly purchased site, we will carry out this in-depth investigation in order to establish how your home can respond to as many of these conditions as possible all year long, ensuring we capture the best your site has to offer.

The design asset:

We believe in the value that good design brings to our clients. We focus on designing high quality, functional spaces that enhance your existing home. We prioritise quality spaces over size, making sure that the home is practical, comfortable and efficient. We may challenge some initial ideas of what you want, but this is all part of the process of making sure we get the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Cost effective and sustainable:

We believe that cost-effective building is the key to modern architecture for every family and that this can be achieved through sustainable design. We will work with Structural Engineers to design your renovations in coordination with the existing structure of the building, and will endeavour to retain as much as of this as possible, to ensure you achieve the most sustainable and cost-effective design solution. By favouring timeless designs that are flexible enough to grow with your family, Base will accommodate your needs now, and the needs of your family as they change in the future.

OUR SERVICES

- Understanding your family and what is currently working (or not working) for your family's lifestyle needs
- Detailed understanding of the existing house and site as an accurate basis for your renovation; including measure-up and drawings of the existing home
- Detailed site analysis
- Diagrammatic planning and spatial analysis
- Design research
- Overall conceptual design
- Detailed design to meet approval requirements
- Organise preliminary prices from reputable builders
- Recommend and oversee consultants
- Specify finishes and fixtures, materials and construction details
- Complete coordination and documentation
- Recommend builders and organise tenders
- Contract administration on site





case study: princess

snapshot

Completion 2016 **Area** 255m²

project description

The original fibro shack was built by the client's father and has been the client's home her whole life. For a long time, the house has been in need of regeneration along with additional spatial requirements to allow for modern living.

The house which had some endearing qualities had a real disconnect between the external and internal living spaces which needed to be addressed. The client was keen to retain the existing feel and character of the house and it was the intention to demonstrate that the home can be adapted, creating interesting and inspiring architecture.

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case study: jesmond

snapshot

Completion 2010 **Area** 810m²

project description

A classic farm house with an 'edgy' plan is how I best described the house when I first visited. The bones were very much intact yet the pieces that surrounded them were struggling both spatially and materially. With a sprawling plan that has a series of wings that converge on a central space for all to enjoy yet still somewhat disjointed and out of reach. A brief which outlined the obvious in some disrepair, yet outlined some underlying issues of connectivity to the outside and cohesion of the multi spaced dwelling.

Strength and simplicity was needed to reinvigorate the house in the form of strengthening up the hub of the house with an outdoor space that could relate to the wings and the surrounds and simplicity in the form of a palette of refined materials, furniture and art work that could flow throughout the house and respond to the surrounds that invited and enabled the occupants to turn an inward-looking house into one that opens up to the outside yet is protected from the elements.

In stark contrast to the rolling fields of the farm with its crisp white finish, refined neutral joinery and polished elements of concrete, stone and glistening pool, this dwelling sits high and proud sprawling across the hill commanding the views of the surrounds, grounded... once again.



princess: leigh hanlon

I first contacted Shawn and the team at BASE in 2012 after spending years dreaming of how to bring my tiny, shabby but adored fibre shack back to life.

My father built the home in the 50's and the responsibility of ensuring a lasting and sympathetic design weighed heavily, not only because it was the home I was born and raised in, but because I wanted to live in it for the rest of my adult life. However at the same time I also realised it could be an amazing and exciting opportunity to enhance its original concept and to be as creative as possible (within financial bounds of course). BASE, specifically Shawn and John, helped me realise that dream and far more.

I was fairly ignorant of the architectural and building process at the start but I was smart enough to understand that nothing can replace great architectural design and if I was going to do this right I needed the right architects. And that's who I found.

From the first time they walked through my old home, Shawn and John treated myself, my mum, my home and my lofty vision with the utmost respect.

My brief was simple. I wanted open, light filled and multi functional/flexible spaces with all the internal living areas on one level. It needed to be practical to accommodate my elderly mum and her needs and of course myself as my own needs changed, as well as a plethora of visiting pets. I wanted a design that reflected and respected the era and the community it was built in and my father's original vision but at the same time to be an edgy design that outlived any current trends to help ensure its relevancy in years to come. And it all had to be accommodated within a relatively modest budget! Ok then, not so simple!

What they gave me however was well beyond my expectations. The design fulfilled all of the above criteria and much more.

Thanks for your eternal patience and support John. The space is now such a pleasure to live and breath in everyday. It is a space full of optimism and freedom. Something my Father would be proud of. Thanks Shawn and John. I am eternally grateful. You guys have made a profound difference to the lives of those living in this space and to all other family members who have an emotional interest in this home. Your kindness and patience and intelligent design made the process fun and awe inspiring.

And the ripples go out. Neighbours and friends repeatedly ask about the team at BASE.

Would I have BASE design any other project for me again in the future? In a heartbeat.

Can good design enhance our life? You bet it can.

Thank you BASE!





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