

Unit blockbuster

Four into one does go – to make a smart beachside family home

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ENTIRE unit blocks are being transformed into stylish family homes in the latest trend to hit the Gold Coast.

In a recent case Theresa and Michael Gundry converted four units into one home after discovering a lack of houses on the market in Mermaid Beach.

“We have four children at home and a lot of these beachside homes are only four bedrooms – that wasn’t

going to be big enough for us,” Mrs Gundry said.

“We wouldn’t have been able to build a large house in Mermaid Beach unless it was a \$3 million house which I particularly didn’t want to do.”

The pair, who run earth-moving machine repair company MTG Contracting, paid \$1.105 million for the run-down block of units in March 2015 and had a clear vision of what they wanted.

They spent more than \$500,000 and 10 months transforming the four 1965-

built, two-bedroom units into a large family home.

“The bones were very good, so we weren’t going to pull it down,” Mrs Gundry said.

“The block got stripped back to the bone and then we repatched it.”

They removed five walls and ended up with seven bedrooms and two kitchens.

With new bathrooms, kitchens, electrics and plumbing and a white weatherboard exterior, the former unit block is unrecognisable.

Stone and timber finishes were used throughout while a lap pool was also installed on the northern side of the property.

Professionals Mermaid Beach director Luke Henderson said the trend had emerged in response to a shortage of large beachside homes on the market.

“Buyers are then faced with the option of snapping up one of the smaller houses available and either extending them, or simply demolishing the home and starting construction on a new home,” he said.

“So instead of buying a traditional beach shack, demolishing it and building a new home, some people are buying duplexes, reconfiguring the layouts, rendering them and creating lovely beachside homes.

“It allows buyers to purchase a decent-sized home – and in Theresa’s case a block of four units – and get two-storeys and have their home on a large site area.

“It had size and even though the structure was old, they were able to gut it and cosmetically renovate it.”



Theresa Gundry in front of the finished house and (inset) the unit blocks before their transformation to a seven-bedroom home.

Picture: REG VARGHESE