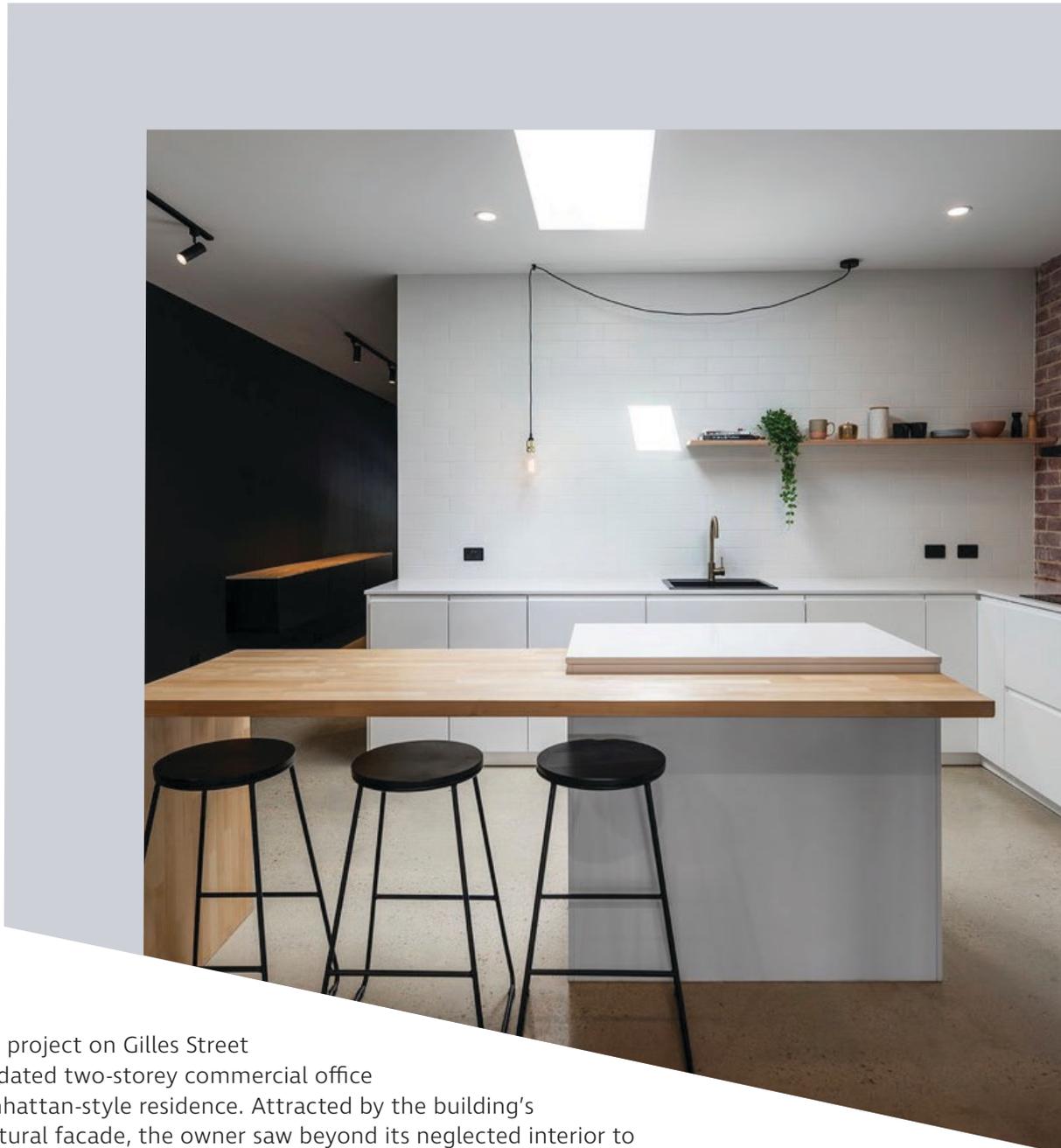


# Case Study

## Gilles Street Adelaide

# ARCHI

Adaptive Reuse  
City Housing Initiative



This adaptive reuse project on Gilles Street reimagines a dilapidated two-storey commercial office building into a Manhattan-style residence. Attracted by the building's distinctive architectural facade, the owner saw beyond its neglected interior to uncover a unique opportunity for urban residential living in the heart of Adelaide.



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First floor demolition

## Vision and Design Strategy

The project's first stage focused on transforming the upper level into a stylish two-bedroom apartment, while retaining the industrial and architectural character of the original building. With an emphasis on simplicity and efficient living, the design encourages social connection around a sunlit, north-facing open-plan kitchen and living area accessed via the rear of the property.

Future plans will continue to transform this property by extending the apartment to include the current ground floor office space to create a family orientated home with multiple living zones.

## Design Features

The design was intentionally restrained, allowing the building's original materials and spatial qualities to take centre stage. Key design features include:

- An open-plan kitchen and living area positioned to maximise natural light from the rear
- Exposed red brick party walls that celebrate the building's past
- Polished concrete floors for durability and visual continuity
- A reconfigured layout accommodating two bedrooms, a shared bathroom, and open plan living space.

## Outcome

The Gilles Street project is a compelling example of adaptive reuse that embraces the unique character of a 1980s office building with contemporary residential living. Through a careful balance of architectural restraint and personal investment, the building's new life as a family home showcases the potential of repurposing existing commercial spaces for high-quality urban housing.

Photos - James Boulton

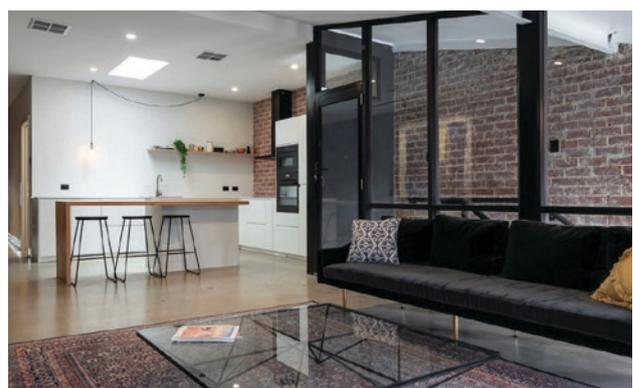


New wet areas

## Key Upgrade Works

The upper floor was completely stripped back to its structural shell, paving the way for thoughtful reuse. Upgrade works included:

- Exposure and restoration of existing red brick walls
- Polishing of the original concrete floor slab
- Full interior reconfiguration to support open-plan living
- New wet areas, kitchen, and interior fit-out
- Cosmetic enhancements undertaken by the owner
- Structural and major construction works carried out by a licensed builder.



Open plan living area