



Building

A photograph of a modern, single-story house at night. The house features large, dark-framed windows and a prominent overhanging roofline. The interior lights are on, and the house is reflected in a swimming pool in the foreground. Two people are sitting on a bench near the pool. A large tree is visible in the background. The overall mood is serene and elegant.

Beauty

Creating beautiful houses is much more than merely a job for Ivan and Isabella Juric – it is a passion. Their company, Better Building, has just completed its latest project in Red Hill which is arguably now the most prestigious new home in Canberra.

Ivan Juric takes his work as builder of prestige homes very seriously. Nothing is left to chance with every part of the design and construction, even down to the smallest detail, carefully considered. This, he believes, is the secret to his company's rapid success at the top end of the new home market in Canberra.

"It is a very difficult part of the industry to work in. You have to find and train tradesmen who can produce work of the highest standard," he explains.

It has taken Ivan over five years to build up a core number of tradesmen who he says can deliver the standard of work he demands.

Ivan commenced business in 1994 when he started doing high quality bathroom renovations. "This fine tuned my attitude to quality building. When a client is spending \$50,000 on a bathroom, there is no room for compromise."

Ivan was soon booked out seven months in advance and it was then he saw an opportunity to extend his business into home construction.

In 1998, after a trip overseas, Ivan and Isabella decided to make the leap into the new home market by building their first display home in Jerrabomberra.

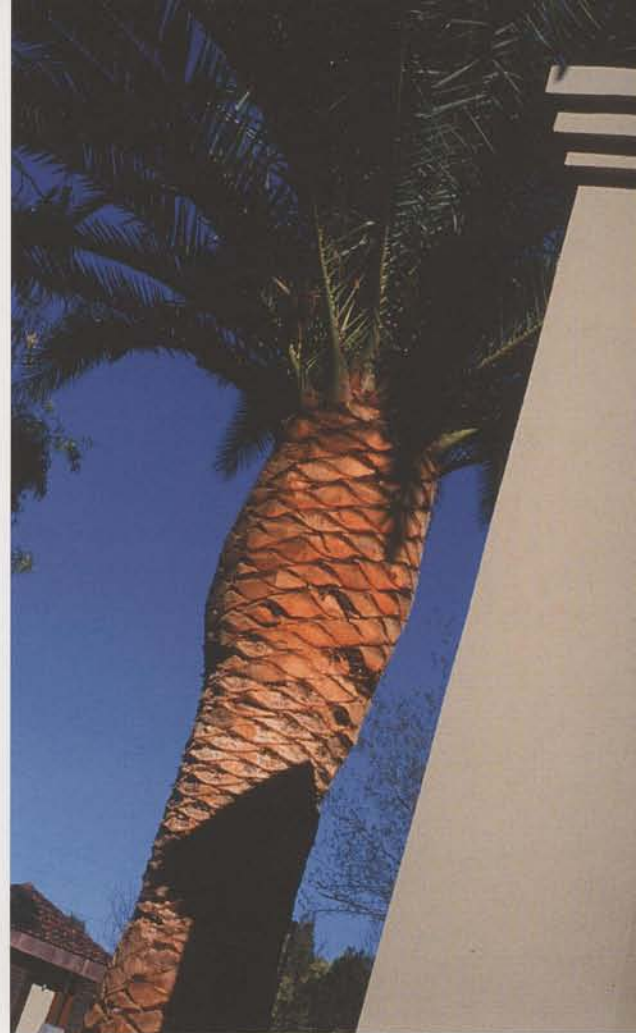
"While we kept the exterior of the house pleasant, we decided to do the opposite of most builders and focus all our energies on the interior design and construction of house. We put in a \$30,000 kitchen and \$20,000 bathrooms. The fit out was spectacular. It blew the market to bits and really changed people's idea of what to expect from the top end of the market," Ivan said.

Better Building went from building homes on budgets of \$300,000 to over a million dollars in a period of months.

"It was unbelievable, I didn't realise how untapped the top end of the market really was in Canberra."

But with his latest project, pictured here, Ivan believes he may have created his greatest achievement. "The house in Red Hill has been my biggest project to date, probably will be in my life."

The Red Hill house, which Ivan started work on two years ago, was essentially a project management job. "Better Building has a reputation for sorting out the detail very carefully and working with architects to realise the owner's vision. You need to have an eye for the detail and you need to get it right as you're building. You have to know





“When a client is spending \$50,000 on a bathroom,
there is no room for compromise.”



what looks and feels right.”

The Red Hill house, Ivan says, is a prime example of how Better Building approaches all of its projects.

“We had architectural plans without final details; the final selection of materials had to be sorted out during construction.”

Many of the design decisions were made during the course of construction.

“I can give you an example. The copper-lined splayed box gutter, which goes around the whole house, had to be purpose-designed and custom-built by us on site.”

Another demanding part of the design was the link-structure section of the house which is all glass – glass walls, glass roof, and glass floor with a water feature running underneath.

The pavilion structure in the living room features a raked ceiling lined with cedar and fixed with handmade copper nails. All the down lights are concealed in the bulk head. All the windows are cedar, double-glazed and laminated.

Because of the layout, curtains were not used, with every room facing onto the central pool courtyard. Natural limestone, selected brush box timber and carpet were chosen for the floors.

With Ivan’s past bathroom and kitchen construction experience, these rooms are a spectacular feature in the home.

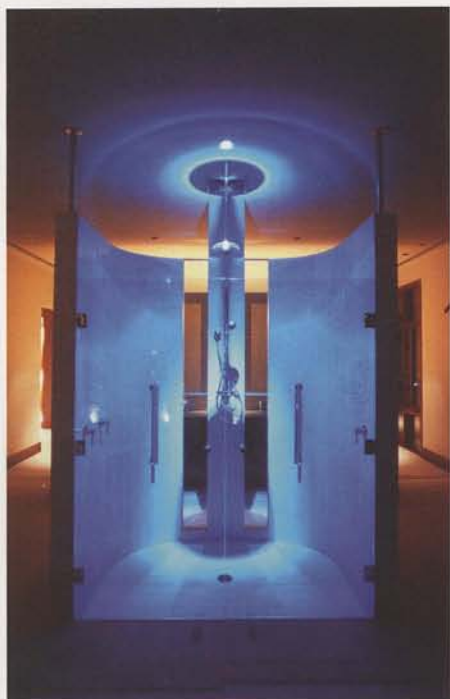
While the quality of the materials used were the best available, Ivan maintained that the reason this particular house was so special was

because of the time and energy that was invested in the interior design.

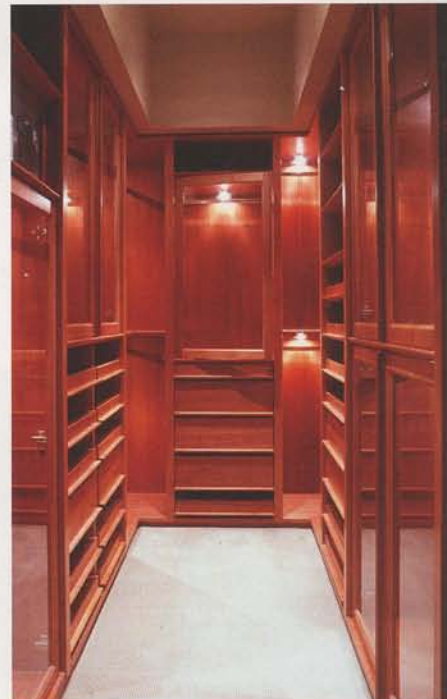
“At the end of the day, it is the experience and the talent of the interior designer that makes or breaks a house. We were extremely fortunate to have a brilliant interior designer working with us on the Red Hill house and we were also very fortunate to have good clients who understood what is involved in building a house of this standard,” he said.

Having won nearly every major building award on offer, Better Building is currently constructing what Ivan describes as “the ultimate display home” in Wisteria Close in Jerrabomberra.

Or you can visit their current display home at Temperley Street Nicholls, in north Canberra.



“This house in Red Hill has been my biggest project to date, probably will be in my life.”





“It is the experience and the talent of the interior designer that makes or breaks a house.”

