

'Boutique' upgrade for Fullarton Rd

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A \$400,000 facelift has turned the old Guster Building on Fullarton Rd, Fullarton, into a "boutique" shopping hub.

In its revamp of the 74-year-old building, developer the Maras Group added four new shops including a Vietnamese restaurant and a bakery/cafe.

Maras Group managing director Steve Maras said he wanted to "breath life" back into the building, which the company bought in 2007, rather than to bulldoze it.

Mr Maras said there had been a shift towards intimate and quaint shopping strips, particularly in the eastern suburbs, as opposed to large-scale malls.

"In the Fullarton Rd development, it was all about offering something unique and boutique while recreating a sense of place for the local community," he said.

A woodworking academy which previously was renting one of the old shops relocated to another site while the owner of an existing hair salon retired after 60 years at the Guster Building.

Florentines Bakehouse owner Maria Vizbulis, who moved into the shop last month, said the redevelopment represented "the old and the new".

"The building has been given a facelift without completely changing the look or what the community is used to," she said.

"Now it's more homely, upmarket and warmer, giving it a welcoming ambience."

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