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Suburban shopping strips need makeover

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Local developer Steve Maras says Adelaide needs to reinvigorate its suburban shopping strips.

His company, the Maras Group, recently completed renovations on Guster House in Fullarton - an art deco shopping strip built in the 1930s.

Mr Maras says developers in Adelaide had tended towards demolition rather than the redevelopment of older shopping strips.

"For some reason in Adelaide with this type of strip shop building what happens is most developers aren't prepared to make the effort to refurbish an older style building - they see it more as an opportunity to redevelop the site," he said.

"We're specialising in the kind of work where we breathe life back into a building rather than completely knock it down."

Mr Maras said the Fullarton Road redevelopment retained the building's original features including the parapet wall, the front canopy, the decorative iron lace supports and the Baltic pine timber floors.

He said customers were moving away from the larger generic shopping complexes towards main road shops, particularly in inner city areas, and Adelaide had the potential to spruce up its offerings.

"On the main roads leading out of the CBD there are a number of buildings...that are either derelict or run down or disused and we can bring them back to life quite easily," he said.

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