

Standoff Pins Nail It!

> Photography courtesy of Adelaide Glass Guys, Text by Tim Roberts

Adelaide Glass Guys supplied and installed balustrading to this award-winning residential property using a standoff pins system to a mezzanine floor. The project is defined by the handrails flowing all the way down the stairs to ground level, coupled with a glass balustrade installed in the stairs area.

Rod Griffiths from Adelaide Glass Guys discusses the artful and striking Trinity Gardens renovation project.

'We worked with building group Adelaide Prestige Homes,' says Rod. The project required a significant degree of ingenuity to achieve a professional, safe, compliant and visually attractive result. 'To ensure the brief was fulfilled, we had to flow handrails through with the balustrade all the way down the stairs, right to ground level,' Rod says. 'Safety is paramount, and depending on the glass product specified, a handrail is now essential for every balustrade with a drop of over one metre. As the mezzanine floor was over 2.7 metres above ground level, it was essential to extend that handrail the whole distance.'

Aligning the glass balustrade with the rest of the stairs and ensuring the project was fully compliant wasn't easy. 'It was definitely a challenging job - anything but straightforward,' Rod notes. 'However, we did everything possible to deliver what the architect required.'

When the Adelaide Glass Guys reviewed the final plans, they realised that further challenges were ahead. 'Because the handrail originally specified wasn't physically possible, we had to think laterally,' Rod remembers.

During a series of redesigns, the Adelaide Glass Guys assisted with a revised plan that was workable. 'We settled on the idea of introducing another stainless steel element to flow with the metal handrail. To make everything work, we had to install a handrail on the opposite wall to the one that was originally intended.'

The glazed panels had to be custom-designed to meet the project brief. 'The stairs area also needed templates to be taken, so that we could get the right glass panel shapes to flow seamlessly down the stairs,' says Rod. 'We could have used fixed 25mm pins - but as the frontage varied by 5 to 6mm, we decided to use ones that could be wound in and out,' Rod reveals.

The standoff pins were perfect for the specialised job, as Rod points out. 'The stainless steel pins enable the balustrade to stand right off the wall,' he says. 'By using this method, we could make the balustrade flush with the wall in a concealed manner.'

It was a fortunate decision. 'When we went to put the glazed panels in position, we had to precisely manipulate the pins to make sure everything was perfectly straight. Many times during the installation, we put the glass on, said: "No, that's not right, take it off!", then reapplied it again until it was all dead straight.' The results of this attention to detail speak for themselves.

Once the decision had been made to use adjustable standoff pins, the team encountered another challenge. 'The wall was originally specified as timber - but when we did the installation, we discovered a C-Channel iron beam that nobody told us about,' Rod recalls. 'To remedy this, the 10mm steel beam had to be tapped so that a threaded bolt could be installed.'





Given all these trials, the timeframe was challenging, taking only four days from start to finish. Yet the Adelaide Glass Guys team met the schedule, forging ahead without sacrificing quality.

And in yet another drama, the original dimensions of one of the glazed sheets had to be adjusted to accommodate the dimensions of the roof cavity. 'We had to put a piece of glass in the eaves where the roof rakes down, which was fine – but there was a 15mm corner in the roof,' Rod says. 'We had to get a custom piece cut and toughened quickly, as the original wouldn't fit; the corner on the replacement piece also had to be raked to flow smoothly with the roofline dimensions.'

Given all these trials, the timeframe was challenging, taking only four days from start to finish. Yet the Adelaide Glass Guys team met the schedule, forging ahead without sacrificing quality. 'We ended up with a fully welded stainless steel handrail system, rather than a click-in modular system,' says Rod. 'The whole thing had to be manufactured and fully welded onsite, and all welds were finished to a very high standard.'

This award comes on the heels of another richly deserved gong for the Adelaide Glass Guys. 'We also won last year's award for Domestic Project Under \$20K in South Australia, for a pool fencing project,' he says. 'Our company predominantly does pool fencing, and we've only recently begun installing balustrades.'

Twice honoured by the committee, Rod strongly advocates entering work for awards. 'Some people are reluctant to submit their work in competitions, as they're worried that it's not going to be good enough ... but I say, go for it! As a business owner, it's been hugely beneficial for me to have won two years in a row, which really makes a strong impression to prospective clients. For that reason, I'd really love to see more firms making the decision to enter their work for awards.'

It's an inspirational message from this double-award-winning company. [GA](#)

