

Get a sneak peek



There really is no 'try before you buy' when it comes to building a new house, but technology is bringing homeowners a lot closer to previewing their future home.

Luxury homebuilder Oswald Homes is using virtual reality to finalise the design of its new custom-built homes.

Using Graphisoft BIMx virtual walkthrough technology in conjunction with augmented reality and 3D modelling software, builders can load detailed 360-degree models of a design onto an iPad to create a peek into their future home.

Oswald Homes Principal Designer Brook Leber said clients could visit their block and use their iPad to transform the empty site, or construction shell, into lifelike fully furnished virtual rooms.

"What they see on the iPad changes in real time as they effectively move from one room of their new home to the next," he said.

"Not only is it exciting for clients to see every aspect of their new home modelled in such realistic detail, but the technology we are using also enables them to better understand the intricacies of their custom design while identifying any issues or concerns.

"As they 'walk through' the home, they can also change the time of year and time of day to check sun angles, they can check lines of sight and get a real sense of how

rooms will interact. It's a far cry from the limited 'spin around' 3D models of old."

Putting the technology to the test, Oswald Homes created a virtual walkthrough of its latest showcase home, the MCM at Claremont.

The owners of the home were able to see exactly what their new residence would look like, right down to the raking ceilings, the soaring windows, the view to the alfresco and the retro-inspired built-in furniture.

"As our homes are all custom designs, we are constantly innovating and trying new concepts or dealing with challenging sites," Mr Leber said.

"Designing a virtual model allows us to explore different concepts and details, and then resolve them prior to going to site."

Oswald uses Cloud technology to automatically update drawings and each of the building's construction supervisors has access to highly accurate 3D models as well as the working drawings so they can better analyse the complex details of each custom home they build.

Mr Leber said Oswald Homes was continually adopting new technologies that could enhance its clients' building experience, with the Oculus Rift and HTC Vive virtual reality headsets already expanding their reach into the building industry.

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