

Top Architect Stephen Jeffrey Review's Clear Waterproofing Membrane

Stephen Jeffrey, Associate Director at Leffler Simes Architects, contacted us about a problem he was having with his private balcony at his Sydney home in Turrumurra.

Stephen advised us he had a beautiful second story wrap around terracotta balcony that had issues with water leakage. The balcony was in style with his beautiful home so it was not his first preference to rip up the tiles and lay the same ones back down after repairing the failed membrane under the tiles. He asked if Clear Waterproofing Membrane was a possible application for his balcony.

Balcony Inspection -

Remedial Membranes Technical Director inspected the site and provided the following two reasons for the balcony leaking:

1. Raised timber supported the balcony -

Over my time as a Director of Remedial Membranes I have had the opportunity to review numerous leaky balconies and by far the majority are Timber Framed Balconies. Unlike concrete which will move a little and then settle, timber-framed balconies move constantly and never settle. In my opinion, as movement is ongoing and expected, it is always going to fail all waterproofing membranes so it is senseless on the part of National Construction Codes & Australian Standards to install waterproofing membrane which is the most fragile material used in construction of the balcony as it will ultimately have the same untoward outcome. In the event of leaks all the tiles need to be removed to repair the damaged membrane underneath. By applying the membrane on the surface, any issue will be easily identified and patch repaired which is neither a massive cost financially or emotionally.

2. The other issue identified was the use of terracotta tiles which are made from clay; this also applies to all stones tiles. These tiles contract when it is cold and expand when it's hot which becomes further exaggerated with water. Imagine wet terracotta tiles in the heat of summer opposed to a dry cold night, the difference in the size of the tile can be dramatic so this also creates movement although not as much as with the timber-frame and this makes it harder to locate and identify the cracks.

What did Stephen have to say about Remedial Membranes Clear Waterproofing Membrane?

Let's hear in his own words.....

"We have a large tiled deck that was leaking into the carport below as the membrane below the tiles had failed. Remedial membranes were able to waterproof the deck without removing the tiles. This was a great benefit for us as the tiles are no longer available and to re-tile would have meant either unnecessary retiling of other areas that were undercover or having 2 different finishes. Sean did a fantastic job of cleaning and preparing the old tiles and grout and was very thorough applying the new membrane. We are pleased to say that even after the torrential rain we have received this winter the deck is not leaking and the structure below is dry."



Before



After (please note the colouration different is due to a shadow)

If you would like to see the installation pictures on this job please refer to our installation video online:
<https://www.remedialmembranes.com.au/balcony-deck-repair/>

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