

# Optiko realises grand vision for new Tattersall's Arcade boutique

Elizabeth Tilley

MICHAEL Makras knew that if he was going to open an optical boutique adorned with unique designer labels, it would have to be an eye-opener.

The Brisbane optometrist has just leased 50sq m of space in Tattersall's Arcade in Queen Street Mall, which he has transformed into a vision of marble decadence for his store, Optiko.

Andi Avdyl of CB Richard Ellis negotiated the lease of the space for eight years at a rate between \$1400/sq m and \$1500/sq m.

Designed by architect Adrian Spence, the first room is a white marble, modern showcase, while the second room is an "old world" twist on a gentlemen's club.

Artist Bruce Reynolds was commissioned to design and produce the luxurious carpeting, which in the second room, is a tapestry using pieces from Village Twin, the old Myer Centre Cinemas, Old Majestic House in Hamilton and the old Sheraton.

"It's a full-on collage of

everything," Mr Makras said.

Mr Makras was determined to open a store in the CBD because he believed there was a gap in the market for unique styles of eyewear.

He said he spent months trying to negotiate space in the Wintergarden before he was approached by Mr Avdyll to move into Tattersall's Arcade.

"I first thought, 'no way, too small,'" he said.

"I thought about it for probably a night and thought 'no, it's perfect'."

The fitout for the store had to be approved by Tattersall's Club, to make sure it would not tarnish the club's high quality image.

Optiko will stock Collette Dinnigan's first sunglasses range — exclusively in Queensland.

The boutique will also carry other designer brands exclusively in Queensland including Uber, Marc Jacobs, Alexander McQueen and Stella McCartney and also designer favourites like Anna Sui and Missoni.

From May, Optiko will stock Marni and Histoire de Voire.



LOOKING good ... Optiko owner Michael Makras opens his new store at Tattersall's Arcade.

Picture: Grant Parker