



ALL ABOUT THE LIFESTYLE

A HUGE SECTION OVERLOOKING THE WAIKATO RIVER IS NOW INHABITED BY AN EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE HOUSE

WORDS CHARLOTTE LANE PHOTOGRAPHY RHYS PALMER & NOEL JESSOP

THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT A HUGE SECTION. No immediate neighbours, seclusion, privacy, room for children to explore ... the list goes on. It is something that the homeowners of this extravagant property revel in, with just under two acres of land comprising their complete holding. Their site, and now their home, looks out over the Waikato River, and is surrounded by the harmony of bird song. Tui singing their hearts out in the many native trees spotted around the property, and the homeowners have as yet never tired of the sound. The house is positioned on a large flat parcel of land, with the remainder falling away on a gentle slope.

When the homeowners first found the section, they were excited about their future and all the possibilities in new home design. But it was not immediately easy to find a designer with the same vision. Then they found Noel Jessop, of **Noel Jessop Architecture**; a former professional contact of theirs. In their view, he “shared the same enthusiasm” as they did. He went to their site, discussed ideas and decided what was possible.

“Aesthetically, the clients liked our style of design and direction, and so left us to achieve something that all of us could be proud of,” says Noel. The homeowners dictated the rooms and areas they needed to work for their lifestyle, and Noel worked from there. Maximising the view and utilising




solar gain was also specified. “The simplicity of this design is what sets us apart from other new houses. The entire house is only one room wide, creating a home that captures the views to the south and engages the sun from the north. Either side of the house is engaged with the other.” The house “runs across the site,” and “maintains a very flat profile.”

Finding a builder who was equally passionate about the site and the design of the house was the next challenge. Thankfully, they were not disillusioned about looking for a contractor for long. They found Craig Wallace at **CJW Build**, and it worked almost seamlessly from there. Craig has a solid theory as to why homeowners and designers alike are always happy with his work. “I build to the architect’s plans and designs – period,” he says emphatically. “We also work closely with the architect and client during the whole building process and understand attention to detail is everything.”

According to Craig, the design and plans for the house are precisely suited to the land, and he used the best subcontractors, building materials and techniques to complement the design. Polished concrete floors feature the home, and other natural materials like modern weatherboards were used outside. Smooth plaster was another preferred product, with **Ace Solid Plasterers** charged with the task. The plaster was applied over the clay brick substrate, with the solid plaster used

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to create a sponge finish. Once the walls were completed, they added a v-joint into the plaster every 1200mm, which visually created the look of panels in the flat surface.

Ace Solid Plasterers specialise in the supply and application of exterior plastering, be it solid or modified plaster, stucco over all different types of substrates, and brick, block or polystyrene jobs. As with this project, they happily liaise with designers, builders and homeowners to create the best possible finish.

For the interior the homeowners knew from the outset they didn't want any feature walls. “So with a base neutral colour scheme throughout that gave us the freedom to add colour through accessories. We wanted the flexibility to be able to change accessories if our tastes ever changed. The colour palette that we chose are all hues of each other – from the black linear board and the lighter grey plaster on the outside down to the subtle white of the interior. We both like the vibrancy and life that red portrays so we decided to go with red as our accentuating colour.”

While the homeowners cannot commit to a favourite room, the kitchen would be a good contender. They both love it, and as far as a new kitchen goes, it is quite phenomenal. “Everything is functionally right there, and the breakfast bar is great, we use it all the time,” says one of the homeowners. “One of us usually sits there at night, while the other is in the kitchen.” The open flow also allows them to keep an eye on their young child when he is up and about. The kitchen features exposed cabinetry for a slightly different look, and the glass fashioned splashback in Resene Wan White is stunning on the back wall.

The homeowners both like the vibrancy and life that red brings to the neutral colour scheme, so have used it throughout the home as their accentuating colour.

The stylish kitchen was made by **Corden Joinery Ltd**, specialists in the creation of residential and commercial joinery. The homeowners devised the plan, with the joinery company incorporating all their ideas. For this kitchen, they finished all cabinetry to a two-pot lacquer finish, for the most elegant and upmarket look. Stainless was crafted to form the bench top surrounding the hob area, with hardwearing white Koris for the solid island bench top, in colour Arctic Snow. Koris is incredibly hardwearing as a surface, and easy to maintain, and the lacquer finish on the joinery is equally hardwearing, particularly in the matt look chosen here.

Polished concrete is etched to look like enormous tiles throughout the home, and this look has been carried into the bathrooms. Dark floors and light, airy walls are a dominant theme for the entire home, and endow the bathrooms with a sense of elegance. His and hers basins mean there is never an argument over who has the bathroom first, and the shower is pleasantly tucked behind a solid wall to create privacy.

Personally, architectural designer Noel most “likes how the home sits along the crest of the site, and how the site falls off to the river below.” It just so happens that the homeowners agree. “The whole thing is great,” they say of their house. “It's impossible to pick a favourite room.” ■