

# Practical Proportions

A Christchurch home has been created in a Hampstead Heath fashion, with exact proportions infusing every inch of the home's design.

Words **Soraya Nicholas**   Photography **Lisa Gane**







**ABOVE & LEFT** Anne and Trevor completed the landscape design and installation themselves. “We were inspired by the work of Paul Bangay, who recommends selecting two or three plants that complement one another.” The couple have planted 40 Portuguese Laurels, 1000 buxus plants to form hedging, and 15 Feijoa trees, to conform to the simple design philosophy.

all met by our builders and subcontractors.” Because Fowler Homes works with the same team of specialists on all the houses they build, they can guarantee homeowners’ a very high level of workmanship.

To create the London-inspired home, finding the perfect brick for the exterior was Anne and Trevor’s primary concern. Thankfully it did not take them long to find **Buckland Brick-Block-Plaster**, where they selected Midland smooth red clay bricks for the company to install. Bricks have long been a preferred building material, and there are many known benefits to using the Midland bricks placed on this home. Most importantly, bricks resist the bumps and general mishaps of everyday life, and they are proven as a hardwearing, trustworthy and weather-tight method of construction. Many brick homes are plastered over, however it is refreshing to see the classic look of red brick exposed.

The roofing profile chosen for the home is also exceptionally hardwearing, and was supplied by **Monier Roofing**. Trevor and Anne decided on the Horizon concrete roof tile, in colour Sambuca, because they liked the smooth, streamlined style which complemented the modern design of their home. Monier concrete tiles are made in New Zealand from local materials, and because they are formed from concrete they will



**ABOVE** The kitchen is modern and simple, with all the appliances hidden behind integrated doors, and the scullery located to the rear. A cafe area adjoining the kitchen is where the family eat casual meals together. **BELOW** A more formal dining space is located in the separate lounge, with views out over the garden.



not rust, which is particularly important in a country surrounded by the ocean. The denseness of the tiles adds thermal mass, helping to make the home more energy efficient, and the tiles also reduce noise, making the home quieter. Monier concrete tiles come with a 50-year performance guarantee for complete future peace of mind.

In keeping with the hardwearing, strong exterior style, **Groundworks 2003 Ltd** poured an exposed aggregate driveway with black oxide added, to give the driveway a deeper look. This was followed by two coats of sealer to enhance the stone.

To finish the look of the exterior, Anne started searching for the perfect external joinery, although finding the ideal colour was a harder process than she expected. “I found the colour white I wanted, but I was told it wasn’t very popular! It did make me worry to start with, but I think a good rule when you’re building is just to trust your instincts, because I knew deep down it was the right choice, and it looked great as soon as it was installed.” The joinery was all selected from **Rylock Canterbury**, with the Rylock Pacific suite decided upon. In colour Appliance White, the windows and

doors in the home are stylish and sturdy, and suitable for the harshest of weather conditions. All of the external joinery features double-glazed glass in a grey tinted colour. The front doors are also by Rylock, from the Fabtech range, with this joinery completed in colour Matt Black.

The soft white of the windows and doors ideally suits the subtle interior colour palette. Dulux colours Opononi, Okarito and Mavora Quarter have been used extensively throughout the home, complemented by soft fabrics, ornate mirrors and contemporary local artwork hanging in the gallery-like entrance hall. But despite the many striking internal features, the kitchen takes centre stage.

Covering one wall of the main living space, and adjoining the home’s “café” eating area, the kitchen is contemporary and effortless. Custom designed and made to meet Anne and Trevor’s expectations by **Trends Kitchens**, the kitchen makes the most of all the available space. The cabinetry is crafted from Melteca in colour Classic White, with a stunning dark Pionite benchtop in colour Charcoal Chromatix. The kitchen features many added luxuries, with soft-close drawers, integrated appliances





## Our Place

with Anne & Trevor

### Favourite room?

Anne: My boudoir. We each have our own space in the house, and this is mine. Trevor has a hobby room for his model trains, and Cameron has a nice big bedroom.

### Best buy?

On a practical note, it would have to be the LG heat pumps. Because they are silver with glass fronts, many people don't even realise they're heat pumps, and they keep the entire house so warm. We have one in the hall and one in each living space.

### What do friends and family like most?

They always seem very impressed by the house, but they also often don't know what to expect. They commonly comment on the boudoir, and the gallery effect in the hallway.

### Advice to others preparing to build?

We were super organised, in terms of doing a huge amount of research first and getting lots of quotes. We also double checked everything, including all the quotes to make sure we were on budget. This meant we knew exactly what we were spending, and there were absolutely no financial surprises. We also made very few changes at all once the house had been submitted to council, because we'd spent the time at the start making sure everything was right.

**ABOVE RIGHT** Anne in her boudoir with one of her two Bichon Frise dogs, Alexa. The family also have Alexa's twin sister Anoushka, and Rag Doll cat Pushkin.  
**BELOW** Originally the master bedroom was going to be painted a light colour with one feature wall, but Anne decided to use a gilded mirror as the feature, and paint the entire room in Dulux Mount Eden.



**ABOVE** Dulux colour Opononi was chosen for the lounge, with the family area in colour Mavora Quarter. The ceilings are in an almost-white shade, Dulux Okarito.

**BELOW** Cameron's room adjoins an ensuite bathroom, and provides him with all the space he needs to play. The red feature wall in his room is Dulux colour Devils Backbone.



and a unique wine bottle holder that was designed into the cabinetry. A large scullery running the length of the kitchen, tucked away against the rear wall, was also custom-made and designed. There is ample storage in there with halogens placed strategically under the cabinetry, and Anne has every little item labelled and placed for instant access.

Anne and Trevor's home has a distinctly European style, from their Russian named pets to their structured spaces and designer furniture. But most important of all, their house felt like home to them from the moment they moved in. "The entire place just works so well for us," says Anne. "Everything has its own place, and we each have our own space. The open-plan living areas are great because we can also separate them if we need to, and there is not one room in the house they we don't use." The couple also love the abundant indoor/outdoor flow, their outdoor "rooms" in the garden, and the fact the house is so warm and sunny. "It's also been very well built, and the fact we had such an enjoyable experience made



# CAMERON

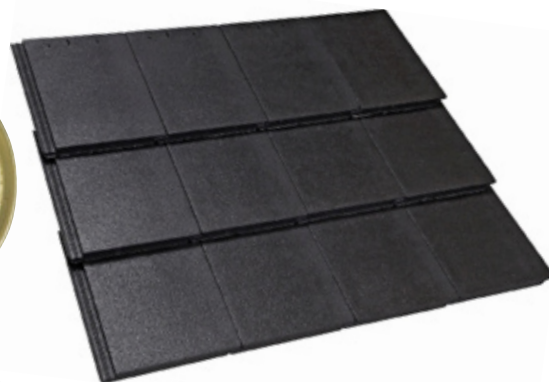
Wooden letters from Spotlight, painted in colour Dulux Devils Backbone, leftover from the feature wall in Camerons bedroom.

Dulux  
Devils Backbone

Dulux  
Mavora Quarter

Dulux  
Opononi

Dulux  
Mt Eden



*Horizon Concrete Roof Tile in colour Sambuca from Monier Roofing creates a flat streamlined profile to emphasise the smooth roof line of the home.*

The hotel-like ensuite bathroom features wall paper from Vision Wall Coverings, from the Black & White book.



*Anne's years spent abroad living in Italy inspired the theme of the home, mixing old with new, such as vintage chairs covered in Trelise Cooper fabric.*



*Anne is a self-confessed mirror addict, with twelve in total throughout the house. Some were purchased second-hand, however many were acquired at Trendy Mirrors.*



## Directory

### BUILDER

K Fowler Homes (Christchurch)  
03 338 8340  
[www.fowlerhomes.co.nz](http://www.fowlerhomes.co.nz)

### CLADDING

Buckland Brick.Block.Plaster  
027 433 2859

### DRIVEWAY

Groundwork 2003 Ltd  
027 278 4039  
[www.groundwork.net.nz](http://www.groundwork.net.nz)

### GARAGE

Bowman Doors  
03 385 7656  
[www.dominator.co.nz](http://www.dominator.co.nz)

### JOINERY

Rylock Canterbury  
03 373 6040  
[www.rylock.co.nz](http://www.rylock.co.nz)

### KITCHEN

Trends Kitchens  
03 343 5242  
[www.trendskitchens.co.nz](http://www.trendskitchens.co.nz)

### ROOFING

Monier Roofing  
09 297 2800  
[www.monier.co.nz](http://www.monier.co.nz)

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2



4 + study



3 + toilet