



Country Style

Quality workmanship and careful design blend to create a comfortable country home in outer Auckland.

Words **Charlotte Lane** Photography **Thomas Law**

AS SEASONED HOMEBUILDERS, ROB and Rose Fogarty knew precisely what they wanted from their new home. Having built three homes before, they knew not to compromise on quality, nor on room size. This led to them measuring rooms in their previous house, and turning to Rob's brother to complete the final working drawings.

The Fogartys sought a building company who would do justice to their customised plan. "Because we had a clear idea of the design and layout we wanted, we sketched the plan that

suited us and then looked for the right builder," says Rob. **Fowler Homes Manukau** was the number one choice from the start. "We liked that we could deal with one person, who happened to be the Company Director. It really made them stand out from all the other building companies we considered, and after construction started, they once again proved themselves."

The result of the Fogartys' careful planning and consideration has translated to a very comfortable, warm house, with a high level of

ABOVE The exterior "room" is open to the North yet protected from all the prevailing winds. Two Velux windows allow sun to filter in, although the bulk of the mid-summer sun is excluded, making this a comfortable place to relax.

■ **THE
SPECS**

Manukau
\$500 000 - \$600 000
360 Sq m





not experience miscommunication, burdensome infrastructure, cost blow out or lack of quality.” This traditional approach toward building and strong customer focus certainly appealed to the Fogartys.

To fit the classical appearance of their home, Rob and Rose chose a traditional style of roof from **Gerard Roofs**. The Gerard Corona Shake profile was chosen, in a textured finish with angle trims, in colour Charcoal. This particular style has a very timeless appeal, and can combat all the extremities of the New Zealand climate. For this home, where the winds can prove strong, it was as much an aesthetic choice as a logical one.

Like other Gerard profiles, the Corona style comes with a 20 year textured coatings warranty, and a 50 year weather-tightness warranty, for complete homeowner peace of mind. The entire Gerard range is made in New Zealand, with the materials to create their products also sourced locally.

Inside the home, careful attention to detail is once again evident. To add extra dimension to some of the rooms, feature recesses were created, and wallpapered walls throughout the interior creates a point of difference. In the kitchen, a large granite benchtop and walk-in pantry featured at the top of the Fogartys' priority list. Rose wanted a large space with a separate

ABOVE Classic brick was chosen as the primary exterior cladding material. The homeowners wanted to use traditional products to eliminate future concerns, and also to ensure the home was comfortable in its rural surrounds. The Gerard Corona Shake roof profile blends well with the brick facade, in colour Charcoal.

craftsmanship exhibited. “You cannot beat traditional building materials, high quality fittings and fixtures, and classic workmanship,” says Rob.

Fowler Homes Manukau Company Director, Bret Robinson, agrees. “Our standard specification for new homes is higher than that of some other companies. We are not priced to be the cheapest, but to what most people would expect and see as desirable

in terms of fittings, fixtures and workmanship for their new homes.”

Rob and Rose thoroughly enjoyed dealing direct with Bret, and this is a theme echoed by Fowler Homes branches throughout the country. “There are no sales people at Fowler Homes, instead you deal direct with the Managing Director of the company throughout the building of your new home,” says Bret. “You will



bench, tucked away from the kitchen, and they designed the hidden pantry to suit her needs. Unlike many new homes, the kitchen is partitioned off from the dining area; “so that guests don’t look straight into food preparation and kitchen mess”, although the kitchen does open directly to the large outdoor living space.

To tie in with the neutral wall tones and modern feel of their home, the Fogartys chose floor coverings from **Cavendish Carpet Court**. Rob and Rose selected carpet from the Hilton premium solution dyed nylon range. This carpet was ideal for use here, with the home being so full of sun. It is UV fade resistant, making it the only carpet on the market to carry a warranty that guarantees the colour and quality of the carpet will not be affected by the sun’s rays. It is also stain proof, extremely resilient and non-allergenic. Because it does not shed or pill, there

ABOVE Sliding stacker doors open from the kitchen to the substantial deck.
BELOW The home has several double doors which can be left open to give the home an open, easy flow between rooms.





are significantly less dust mites and irritants in the air, creating a more healthy home environment.

The Fogartys' outdoor "room" is one of their favourite parts of the house, particularly on a warm summer's day. To make it an even more enjoyable retreat, Rob and Rose chose to install outdoor speakers. This adds to the home's full audio system, which comprises two audio zones, and links with the home entertainment room. Supplied by **AV Expression**, the house features a state of the art system, accessed by a single touch screen control panel. This means that Rob

can be lounging outside with music from an i-pod playing, while Rose is inside watching a dvd, all from the same system. The speakers are all recessed into the walls and ceilings for a completely flush appearance, keeping cables and unattractive outlets hidden from sight.

Rob and Rose have enjoyed their home for almost a year now, and they are eagerly anticipating summer once again. Long warm nights out on the deck, plenty of barbecue meals and throwing the sliding doors open are all part of their plan for the coming months. And they can't wait! ■



ABOVE Speakers were installed in the outdoor room as well as in the home entertainment room.

BELOW Tiles span the floor and walls in the bathroom. On the floor, 500x500 square Italian porcelain tiles set the stage, with feature tiles extending floor to ceiling on the rear wall of the ensuite shower.



DIRECTORY

BUILDER

Fowler Homes Manukau
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www.fowlerhomes.co.nz

ROOFING

Gerard Roofing
09 978 9019
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CARPET

Cavendish Carpets
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AUDIO VISUAL

AV Expression
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