



Tranquility in Tauranga

A section overlooking the water in Tauranga is the ideal setting for a contemporary home built to take in the view.

Words **Soraya Nicholas** Photography **Amanda Aitken**

KEVIN AND LINDA WOOD ARE NOTHING short of experienced when it comes to having homes built. After completing more than a few over the years, they were eager to build again, especially after stumbling upon a magical hill site. “We were actually looking at land on the other side of the hill,” says Woody, “and while we were there we looked over and saw the sections here. It has such a lovely view, looking down to the harbour and inlet, so it was a great find.”

To complement the site they had found, Kevin (Woody) and Linda set about looking for the right builder. In the past they had used a private contractor, but this time they had to

The home was designed around the kitchen and the view. Doors slide back to reveal the entire deck, which is ideal for entertaining in summer and creates impeccable indoor/outdoor flow. The double-sided gas fire is a unique internal feature, creating ambience for both the interior and the deck.



The wall of the fire is adorned with porcelain tile cladding in Niagara Antracite from the Tile Depot.



search for someone new. “We actually discovered **Fowler Homes Tauranga** through a home show, and we were very happy with their work,” explains Linda. Because they knew the process so well, “it was easier as we were able to tell the builder exactly what we wanted”, and Woody sketched the basic design they hoped to achieve. From their past experience, they were determined not to have any area of the house “unused”, which meant no big hallways or rooms that would not be inhabited regularly.

As design and build specialists, Fowler Homes were happy to incorporate all of Woody’s ideas, and their in-house designer worked

diligently to fit the home onto the tight building site. The house is right on multiple building boundaries, so the position and working drawings for the home had to be well-devised and precise in order to meet council and building requirements.

For the exterior of their home, Linda and Woody followed the advice of Fowler Homes and used 50mm Celcrete panels from **Celcrete International Ltd** to create a smooth finish. “We were really happy with Celcrete as a product,” enthuses Woody. “We have used other cladding before, and this was definitely superior and we could not be happier with it.” The hardwearing panels are made from autoclaved, aerated concrete, which

is an unbeatable solid, lightweight building material. The concrete is fire and pest resistant, as well as being unable to warp or rot, due to its composition of sand, lime and cement which has been a popular building product in Europe for over 100 years.

The indoor/outdoor flow of the home is the most visually dynamic feature, and it is also a practical inclusion too. With such a spectacular view it was important to make the most of the outlook, and also to ensure the house would be great for entertaining. Sun floods the deck and interior, especially when the doors are thrown wide on a summer day. The home was designed around the kitchen, which resides in the centre of

the interior. The kitchen and open plan flow were created to work together, and everyday family living and large scale entertaining is effortless.

C&S Joinery Ltd was charged with the manufacture and installation of the kitchen, which was crafted entirely from Melamine. The large, contemporary kitchen had to be fit for a chef, as a homage to Woody’s professional past, and it has certainly lived up to their hopes. To ensure the kitchen worked with the overall interior colour tones, Melteca Mist and Anthracite were the two shades selected for the cabinetry, which work effortlessly with the Bissonne Mineral Stone Diamond Gloss bench tops. C&S



All of the living and the home's entrance is on the upper level, which makes the house unique from a design standpoint. At the recent regional Registered Master Builder House of the Year awards, this home took out a gold award in its price category.



Joinery Ltd also made the cabinetry for the bathroom and laundry units, from the same materials and colour range.

To make the interior really stand out, a significant internal design detail was changed during the build. Woody and Linda felt the interior needed a major feature, and so they decided to forgo the planned heat pump and instead create a schist-look wall with an indoor/outdoor fire set into it. **Landscape Elements** supplied the double-sided gas fire, which was custom made to work with the interior, and it creates ambience for both the internal and external living spaces. The fire surround was finished with a 316 stainless steel detail, designed to complement the stone cladding and the natural medium in the burner. Visitors to the home are often even more wowed by the fire than the view, and the fact that it was entirely custom designed and made, makes it incredibly unique.

The tiles used throughout the interior are also visually interesting. From the **Tile Depot Tauranga**, tiles feature in the kitchen/dining area

extensively, as well as being used in the home's bathrooms. The tiles chosen by Woody and Linda are a 300x600 polished porcelain style, known as Primi Cloud. This was an ideal option for the kitchen and bathrooms, as porcelain tiles are highly chemical resistant and have only 0.03% water absorbency, making them ideal for wet areas. Porcelain is also easy to clean and practical, without compromising on style, and the price point is surprisingly affordable.

To install the tiles in all the requisite areas, Woody and Linda turned to **Coastal Tiling**. As experienced and expert tilers, Fowler Homes were confident the finish would easily meet their high standards. They began with waterproofing all the wet areas using Ardex products, before devising a plan to ensure the correct placement of each tile in the home. All surfaces were thoroughly prepared before tiling began, which affords Woody and Linda complete future peace of mind. Coastal Tiling also completed the feature stone tiling work around the fire, which was executed to perfection.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT The large Delonghi oven with its cast iron gas top is Woody's absolute favourite purchase for the house. Woody and Linda bask in the sun and admire the view from their deck. They spend long summer days and evenings with family or entertaining friends here. The downstairs lounge is Linda's favourite room, and it has a very warm, relaxed ambience.



Our Place with Woody & Linda Wood

Favourite room?

Linda: The downstairs lounge/theatre room, because it's a relaxed, cosy space, and I love the rich red tones.
Woody: The upstairs lounge. It has sun all day and it's always warm.

Best buy?

Woody: I used to be a chef, so I'd have to say the freestanding Delonghi oven.
Linda: The red rug in the downstairs lounge from Freedom. I love the richness of it.

What do your friends and family like?

It's funny because our neighbour brings friends over to look at our kitchen, so that's definitely a favourite, and lots of people love the fireplace feature.

Advice to others preparing to build?

Linda: You need to have a good rapport with your builder – it's absolutely paramount. You also need to ensure you have a builder who will speak up and offer their expertise to guide you, which is why we really appreciate more old-school type builders.

Woody: Try to keep the home as simple as possible – don't get too complicated, and be practical.



Directory

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www.fowlerhomes.co.nz

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07 543 4863

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09 444 3780
www.clearlite.co.nz

CLADDING

Celcrete
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www.celcrete.net

FIREPLACE

Landscape Elements
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www.landscapeelements.co.nz

KITCHEN

C & S Joinery Limited (Te Awamutu)
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While the tiling work in the bathrooms certainly sets the scene for luxury, the frameless glass showers make it even more stylish. Designed, made and installed by **BOP Mirror & Glass Ltd**, they were custom created to fit each bathroom from quality materials. The external glass balustrades were also completed by BOP Mirror & Glass Ltd, using the Alpha Balustrading System. This type of balustrade is ideal for balconies such as Woody and Linda's, because it provides safety within the New Zealand compliance regulations, without impeding the view at all. The handrail was powder-coated to colour Silver Pearl.

Also in the bathrooms are products from **Clearlite**. They supplied the shower fittings from the Clearlite range, as well as mirrors with a modern frosted edge. Perhaps the most stunning fitting is the 1200 Cashmere triple drawer vanity in the main bathroom, which has a vitreous china top. It is attractive and practical, with plenty of bench space and storage. A five year warranty adds to the appeal, and the double bowl option makes it suitable for bathrooms that will have more than one

The main bathroom features a stepped-up tiled bath which the family love, and a large 1200mm Cashmere vanity. A large mirror with frosted edges completes the look, and the many green accessories invigorate the otherwise white and neutral colour scheme.

person using the space at any one time. The 900-width Cashmere triple door version was used in the ensuite.

One of the reasons Woody and Linda's home works so well for them is because it allows their teenage children to enjoy space of their own. Their daughter resides in the downstairs bedroom with one of the best views in the house, and there are bedrooms upstairs for when the other children return home. But with their nest soon to be empty, Woody and Linda admit they may elect to downsize if the right opportunity presented itself. "We would build again, but it would be a matter of finding the right section of course. We have such a gorgeous view here, and with the native bush below the bird life is incredible, it's as if we are miles away from everything sometimes." And their home would be pretty irreplaceable too. ■

**THE
SPECS**

Tauranga
\$400,000 - \$500,000
270 Sq m



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