

STATEMENT OF STYLE

A Wanganui lifestyle block provided an abundance of inspiration for this contemporary family home.

Words **Soraya Nicholas** Photography **Dori McCormick**



WHEN LEIGH AND KERRY MCCORMICK moved to Wanganui, they decided to rent until they found a suitable home to buy. The only problem was that the more they looked, the more disillusioned they became. And then, by chance, they stumbled upon a one hectare section less than ten minutes from town. The McCormicks “jumped” on the site, and immediately set in motion plans to build their dream home.

“The section was perfect for us,” says Leigh. “We can see to Mount Ruapehu on a lovely day, and to Taranaki; and it is wonderful having a rural outlook. We are surrounded by market gardens and a strawberry farm.”

Leigh and Kerry’s first task to get their project underway was to find an architect. When they approached Craig Dalgleish of Dalgleish Architects, they

were immediately confident he was right for the job. “He had a sister site to ours nearby, so he understood our section.” Plus he was receptive to their ideas and full of concepts they liked.

“Lifestyle blocks are not a new phenomena but most feature suburban homes placed in a landscape setting,” explains Craig. “We wanted to look at it afresh, and ask ‘what could it be’”. Glass is widely used, although it is placed alongside materials that keep the house connected to its environment. “The intent of the design was to create a country home in an expansive setting. The home is a series of gathered pavilions, so as to create landscaping opportunities and views across and between spaces.” The home was also created with environmentally sustainable design principles in mind.

To execute Craig’s design, the McCormicks sought the best builder in the region. Their search led them to **Baden Brown Builders**. “Baden was a complete perfectionist,” says Leigh. “He has an incredible attention to detail, and he expected everyone who worked on the house to meet his high expectations.” Baden worked very closely with Craig, ensuring every aspect of the home could be fulfilled to the high design specifications.

Aside from being a family home, the dwelling also had to have a dual purpose. A self-contained, upmarket granny-flat was designed and built beside the main house, and from the outside looks to be part of the home’s overall design. It is linked by a short, covered walkway, and means that Kerry’s father can live with the family,

while still having his own space. The way it is configured also means that it could work as a bed and breakfast facility or as guest accommodation for a future owner.

The home features an assortment of building materials, all chosen to fit with the rural nature of the section. Smooth plaster, timber, steel and board all feature with large expanses of glass dominating the north facing side of the house. **Pritchard Windows & Doors** supplied all of the external joinery and glass for the home, with the large panes of glass glazed on site. All of the joinery is from the Vantage range of aluminium joinery, including the large Metro sliding doors, which have been powder-coated along with the rest of the joinery in colour Silver Pearl. The Metro sliding door frame exhibits an uncluttered flat surface, along with a bottom rolling motion for reliable performance. One of the large sliding doors in the living room

There are two parts to the home: the main house, and a self-contained unit to the left, which connect via a linked passageway. A combination of materials, including timber, plaster and steel, create an industrial look for the modern country dwelling.



THE SPECS

Wanganui
\$600,000 +
330 Sq m



3



4 + granny flat



4



was specially constructed to slide out over the exterior cladding, rather than over another fixed glass panel, to create more wall space inside.

Also working on the exterior of the house was **Quality Decorating Ltd.** They sprayed and brushed all of the Cedar components with Dulux Intergrain, and oiled all of the decks with a Cabots Kwila stain. These surfaces can be regularly coated as part of a maintenance programme, to ensure protection from the elements.

Inside, Quality Decorating Ltd also worked on all of the surfaces. They sprayed doors to a hard wearing finish, with Resene Half Sea Fog and the choice of colour for the doors, walls and ceilings. Wallpaper was also hung as part of the home decorating, with the feature paper supplied by King & Teppett. Both the homeowners and Baden were thrilled with the quality of finish, which sets the tone for the entire interior.

Both the kitchen and bathrooms feature Oak, to draw the feeling of

sustainability into the interior. The timber was used as a primary feature for the kitchen's centre island, and this look was recreated in the bathrooms with Oak overlays placed on top of the spray-lacquered front of the vanities.

Another main feature of the bathroom is the sunken bath in the ensuite. Plumber Mike Buchanan, of Mike Buchanan Plumbing Ltd, describes this as the greatest challenge in terms of his drain laying work. Because the bath is sunk down below ground level, so to are the drains that were necessary to include beneath it. A little creative thinking meant this special design did not cause a problem though, and Mike then focused on the home's general plumbing as well as all the drain laying. High quality fittings were used in each wet area within the home, with no expense spared when it came to quality, and this adds luxury to the kitchen, bathrooms and the laundry.

The McCormicks are understandably in love with their new home. It not

ABOVE The kitchen was designed as much for entertainment and everyday living as it was for cooking. It had to be a place to comfortably stand and talk, with an alcove for food preparation keeping mess out of the way when needed.



TOP TO BOTTOM Different outdoor seating areas mean the wind can be avoided; the outdoor fireplace is a family favourite; the living space is connected to the lounge without being completely open-plan; Oak overlays on the front of the vanity unit ensure a cohesive feel between the bathroom and kitchen.

only fulfils their creative wishes in terms of design, but they have been able to create the large family home that they always dreamed of. "We love having people around, and being surrounded by family, and this is the type of comfortable home that lends itself to our lifestyle," says Leigh. Although they only have one child currently living at home, they are looking forward to a time well into the future when their house is one day filled with grandchildren. ■



OUR PLACE

with Kerry & Leigh McCormick

What do friends and family like most about your home?

They like that it feels really comfortable - that you can just put your feet up on the couch relax and enjoy being there.

Describe your home in three words:
Comfortable. Simple. Homely.

Favourite room?

Leigh: The bathroom. It is so luxurious, like being in a hotel, and it feels like a real pampering spot.

My home wouldn't be complete without:
Friends and family.

Advice to others preparing to build?

Make sure you pick the right people to work with. It makes the project that much easier! For us, certain names started to crop up when we asked around before choosing our architect and builder, and we felt comfortable with them right from the start.



Polished Concrete Flooring



Romo Pari Wallpaper



Stellar Blue Gold Curtains



Resene Half Sea Fog

MATERIALS

BATHROOM The homeowners felt it was only logical to carry the Oak theme through from the kitchen to the bathroom, and creative overlays were placed on the front of the vanities. Wooden slats on the floor of the shower hide a deep sunken bath.

DECOR The interior is neutral, with hints of texture added with wallpapered feature walls and dramatic curtains.

KITCHEN APPLIANCES A stylish red Circulon kettle sits on an over-size oven by Ariston (900 model).

OUTDOOR CHAIRS French moulded chairs from King & Teppett have a prime view out over the section from the deck.

WINE FRIDGE The wine fridge by Vintec is integrated into the kitchen so guests can help themselves to a chilled drink without disturbing the cook.

DIRECTORY

BUILDER
Baden Brown Builders
06 347 7220

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
Dagleish Architects
06 347 9401

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Quality Decorating Ltd
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PLUMBING
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