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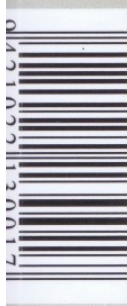
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COVER HOME

180 DEGREES

A BRAND NEW ARCHITECTURALLY DESIGNED
HOUSE OVERLOOKING WELLINGTON HARBOUR

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PHOTOGRAPHY **IVOR EARP-JONES & ANJA LENNER**



□ THE
SPECS

Wellington
\$600 000 +
276 Sq m



2



3 + study



2 + toilet



“Family from overseas cannot believe the outlook. It’s the first thing they notice, then they look at the house!”

SOME HOUSES CAPTURE THE HEART OF EVERYONE WHO sets foot inside the door, and this exquisite Wellington home does exactly that. The house spans an impressive 180 degrees, resulting in views from virtually every room. Homeowner Steve Pendrous acknowledges this to be the most special aspect of his new house, and it was one of the initial drawcards when he first saw the section for sale. Views stretch to capture the harbour and the hills and Steve, a recent immigrant to New Zealand, believes the outlook is nothing short of world class. “Family from overseas cannot believe the view. It’s the first thing they notice; then they look at the house!”

Steve has enjoyed his first five months living in the home, and while he is loving every minute of it now, he did have to be very patient waiting to move in. “The initial time frame was 12 months, but the reality was two and a half years from start to finish, with the design and lengthy consent process included,” he says with a chuckle. But he’s not complaining. The house has been well designed and exceptionally built, and certainly ticks all the boxes for Steve. “This place was designed for my lifestyle, which is great. It’s unlike many Kiwi homes. The house has been built for the Wellington conditions, so when it’s blowing a gale outside, you would never know it from inside.”

In terms of space, the house has plenty; with large rooms and free-flowing areas. “There’s more space than I know what to do with,” says Steve. Everything overall has been translated well from paper to reality, and he believes part of that success can be attributed to the builder and architect working together, for the same company at the time.

The house was designed by Davor Mikulcic, previously principal architect at **Pilbrow Design Group**, and constructed by the same company, with Steve Pilbrow at the helm. According to builder Steve, “the small section created several challenges in trying to create a reasonable sized home, which the client wanted, and to take advantage of the views.” The section is a touch under 600 square metres, which is not large for a hilltop site. But with the combined skills of both Davor and Steve, the house was developed and finished to ensure the views were maximised; and the homeowner is thrilled. “It’s quite amazing,” he says, “it’s as if I have no neighbours once inside the house. Because it’s on an angle, and I don’t appear to look out over any other houses, it’s just the view and me.” This is also emphasised by the native bush area to one side of the property, which means the home will never be built out.

Architect Davor Mikulcic is now the principal architect and director of **Studio MWA Ltd** in Wellington, in addition to his work in Brisbane at Thomson Adsett Architects. This type of home is his favourite sort of project, as he loves nothing more than being challenged in his professional capacity. “On each and every project, I challenge myself and the client to really push the boundaries. My goal here was to create the best house possible for the section.” One of his main objectives was to design as many openings as possible “to catch the sun and view and remain totally private.” The window configurations designed appear as a “curtain wall” of glass, giving the house a slightly commercial feeling.



The colour scheme for the home is completely monochromatic, made up of variations of black, grey and white, to “emphasise the forms of the building design”. Inside, colours have also been selected from a largely neutral palette, with design features taking precedence over bold colour choices. Probably the most striking interior feature is the extraordinary staircase, which homeowner Steve loves. “It cost a lot but it works really well”. Another favourite inclusion of his are the stylish skylights which allow the centre of the home to be flooded with light and sun.

The colour scheme created by Davor was chosen from the Wattyl Taubmans range of paints. On the exterior, for the James Hardie Linea weatherboards, Sunproof Satin paint was chosen. The Sunproof range is guaranteed on Linea weatherboards for 12 years, and comes in an astounding 1400 available colours.

To give the best possible finish to the exterior doors, a Butex high-gloss enamel was the paint of choice. On the plaster portion of the house, a low-sheen Timberproof was used, to create a hardwearing, tough surface. Wattyl Taubmans provide a comprehensive service for customers all over New Zealand, and specialise in the supply of premium paints as used on this contemporary new home.

Everyone involved in this project, including the homeowner, loves the staircase, and one of the reasons it is so special has to do with the glass balustrade. Made and installed by **Glass Relate**, the internal balustrade is unique, angled to a square/straight style, and constructed from toughened safety glass, which is extremely durable.



Even the most reluctant cook would be tempted by this gourmet kitchen! Despite not being a famed cook, Steve loves entertaining, and when he does have to be in the kitchen everything works well and “is in the right place!”



Everything made by Glass Relate is entirely custom-made, and this is one of the primary reasons they are so popular with architects and builders. The talented company also made the cantilevered, frameless glass balustrade for the exterior of the house, in a grey tint, with strong stainless steel fittings. The stylish, frameless glass ensures a clear, unobstructed view, while being effortlessly beautiful.

In the bathrooms, Glass Relate were once again on hand to assist, tailor-making frameless glass shower enclosures and glazed mirrors. For the upstairs bathroom, the custom-designed mirror is huge, spanning the entire length of one wall.

Another tailor-made aspect of the house is the kitchen, of which Steve is very proud. "It is probably the best value for money out of everything in the house," he says, simply because it is so well made and looks so fantastic. Despite not being a famed cook, Steve loves entertaining, and when he does have to be in the kitchen everything works well and "is in the right place!"

Noble Kitchens have an established reputation for their detailed designs which far precede them. Many homeowners are quick to rave about their experiences working with director Hadrian Noble; something Steve is also quick to point out. "His attention to detail is amazing, as is his support months later. He has a real eye for perfection." According to Hadrian, "every product in this kitchen is good quality and will stand the test of time, which is vital in the kitchen environment!" He is proud

of the attention to detail so many of his clients talk of, but this has nothing to do with luck. Hadrian personally measures up each job, makes all the cabinetry and installs it, ensuring complete quality control.

For this house, the custom-designed kitchen included spray-painted, full gloss two-pot lacquer cabinetry, with Nova Pro soft close drawer runners and Grass hinges.

The kitchen, as well as the bathrooms, all feature luxurious tiles, and Steve loves the easy care yet extravagant look they create. From the **Tile Warehouse**, the tiles selected are part of the FAP Groove series, new in from Italy. These tiles are exclusive to the Tile Warehouse, and have proven to be extremely popular for homeowners keen to create an elegant, contemporary look. "Everything is magic when you use the tactile elegance of Groove. They are available in five distinct colours, including Sand, Clay and Coffee, and Groove offers style and simplicity. This is Italian class that you can afford!" says Clare Healey, architectural representative for the Tile Warehouse.

In terms of the finished home, everything went according to plan. Very few changes had to be made to the house once construction began, and despite it being a rather long build, Steve is just pleased to be enjoying his sumptuous new dwelling. "It's a very cool house," he says. "It's light, bright, sunny and large, and it works perfectly for my lifestyle." Steve has also fallen in love with Wellington, and despite the wind, wouldn't want to be anywhere else. ■



Our Place

with Steve Pendrous

What do you love about your home?

The view from every room – I don't know where else in the world you could have such amazing views so close to town.

Do you have a favourite room?

Yes, my study. It's a place I can go to relax, and it's light, airy and the balcony and views make me feel like I could be a million miles away from everything.

Favourite buy for the home?

The 50 inch plasma screen television in the front lounge.

What would you change, if anything?

I would have a bigger garage! At the moment I can't fit the boat in.

What do friends and family like about your new house?

The views! Family from overseas cannot believe the view, and friends like the house from a socialising perspective.

What advice would you give to others preparing to build?

Plan for the building process to take a lot longer than you think. Also, take advice from your builder, as his perspective comes from a practical standpoint; and never make fundamental changes once building has begun!