



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

WORDS **SORAYA NICHOLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY **THOMAS LAW**

IN AUCKLAND, A BUILDER TAKES ON AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MISSION TO CREATE A HEALTHY, ECO FOCUSED HOME

FEW BUILDERS CONSTRUCTING A “SPEC” HOUSE TAKE the time to think seriously about the environment. Site wastage may well be minimised and recycling deployed, but to call many new homes “eco friendly” might be a stretch. That’s precisely what makes this Glen Eden home so unique. Built by **Westrend Projects Ltd**, on a “strict budget”, they set out to construct a “contemporary eco home”. Amazingly, the cost to build was fairly modest given the finished product, meaning that modern living and planet-friendly concepts can be achieved by the average homebuilder.

Part of the environmentally aware ethos for this project was to make the house healthier to live in - an increasingly popular concept. Neither particle board nor carpet was used inside, meaning no “out gassing” or dust mites, which could alone lead to allergies. Double-glazing keeps heat in, and eliminates drafts, a heat pump ensures healthy heating, and insulation far surpasses general standards. On the floor, sustainable New Zealand Eucalyptus was selected.

To design the home, Westrend Projects turned to an architectural designer they had used before; Robert Chisholm of **Nikau Design**. Part of Robert’s philosophy

centres on his fresh approach to each and every project he is involved with. “I complete specific designs for specific sites,” he says. “Every job is unique because it has its own unique location, which creates a need to search for the best possible solution.”

Positioned on a hill section, the design and construction phases were slightly more challenging than your average build. Now completed, the home sits well, with surprisingly viable indoor/outdoor flow. Part of its success, in hindsight, says Robert, was a realistic approach in respect of design. “Nothing was non-negotiable with David Anstis [director, Westrend Projects]. He had a good appreciation of the design aspect and building process, particularly in the Waitakere City, where complex layers of planning and building regulations can sometimes place limits on creativity.”

A good design is only ever as good as the materials used, and thankfully all products in this case enhance the look of the home. Aluminium windows and doors have been used exclusively, from the well-known Elite range, supplied by **MD Aluminium**. Upgrading to double-glazed glass allowed the builder to tick off another healthy home inclusion, and was thoroughly recommended. Not only

□ THE
SPECS

Glen Eden, Auckland
\$200,000 - 300,000
137 Sq m



1



4



2



New Zealand Eucalyptus is a sustainable wood, and therefore an environmentally friendly inclusion for the home.



does double-glazing keep the house warmer in winter and invariably cooler in summer, it also reduces noise from outside. To complement the overall style of the house, all joinery was powder-coated to colour Silver Pearl.

As part of the future proofed building initiative, MD Aluminium's joinery is not only manufactured to meet current trends, it is crafted using the latest technology. They are proud to stand behind the Elite range, one of the best they supply, offering a five-year product warranty and a 10-year powder-coat warranty.

Another product that makes a positive impact on the house is the exterior balustrade. From **Clamp Products**, New Zealand's largest supplier of architectural wire rope and fittings, the balustrade is contemporary and strong. A stainless steel wire rope was used alongside rigging hardware, to create the look specified by the builder. All materials used to create the balustrade are 316 marine grade stainless steel, meaning superior corrosion resistance. Easy to install, in this case the balustrade was assembled and put up on-site by the building team.

Clamp Products import and manufacture all the products they stock, which allows them to offer materials at highly competitive prices. Their wire rope is not just used for balustrades, it is regularly chosen for landscape features as well.

As a testament to David Anstis' desire to build "environmentally friendly", this home certainly ticks all the boxes in terms of being healthy, modern and a piece of eye-candy on the side of the hill. ■



Due to rigid Council regulations, the design is a finely tuned equation, balancing height to boundary controls, sewer crossings, floor levels and more.

