

PROJECT

# 02 *Kashiwa* by Arthouse Architects

• NELSON •

East meets west in this house, which seeks to bring an Asian aesthetic to the Kiwi landscape.

Words by Justin Foote  
Photography by Oliver Weber



01 Architect David Wallace was tasked by his clients with creating a house of 'integrity and materiality'.

02 The house comprises three modules linked by a central corridor and punctuated by a number of stone junctures.



As we know, an architectural design is, amongst other things, a considered response to the client's brief and specific site conditions, with the architect providing a healthy dose of reality to marry all elements harmoniously together.

For David Wallace of Arthouse Architecture, an archetypal Kiwi waterfront site provided the backdrop for what was to be anything but a typical Kiwi house.

"The clients – one of whom is Spanish and the other Thai – brought with them a very international perspective as well as a desire for an international aesthetic, especially an Asian framework."

The sloping, north-west facing block is bordered on one side by a road and by Nelson Haven on the other. To mitigate road noise the site was partially excavated to allow the house to sit into the land.

"The site enjoys fantastic views to the west, however, on the eastern side, the road side, and immediately to the north, power lines disrupt the otherwise rural setting.

"On the northern wall, the decision was made to place a wood-burning fire within a solid stone surround, which serves to block the power lines, for the most part.

"A similar treatment has been used as a feature at the entrance and also at other junctions, or linking sections, throughout the house, which has been designed as a collection of three modules tied together by these stone elements," say Wallace.


In between, a variety of timbers has been used to create a finely detailed finish evocative of the Asian influence the owners wanted to capture.

"Incorporating a number of timbers – in this case pine, ply, white oak, cedar, beech, macrocarpa, purpleheart and the Japanese oak from which the house takes its name – into a scheme can be dangerous, however, the solution here was to fit each species to a particular purpose, ensuring they all worked together."

The result, it is safe to say, is somewhat different to the usual Kiwi aesthetic. Other differences to contemporary New Zealand architecture are more programmatic. The kitchen, for instance, rather than being a part of an open-plan living area is contained within its own space.

"It is common practice throughout Asia for higher-end residential kitchens to be separated into wet and dry areas, with the wet kitchen being where the preparation and cooking of food is done, completely separate to the dry kitchen and the living areas.

Similarly, a small TV room has been carved out of the living area and is partially contained behind a lightweight timber screen, giving the space a sense of enclosure.

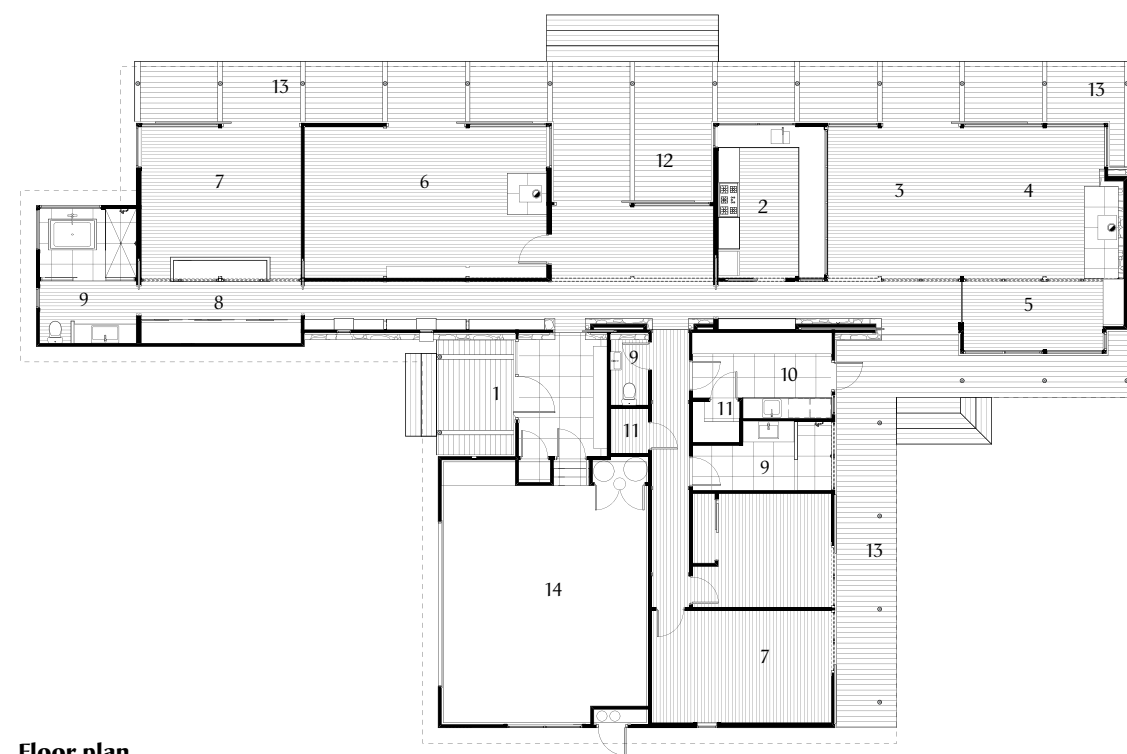
In the middle of the house, between the living module and the master bedroom and study, lies a foyer-like space that transitions between the interior and a covered outdoor dining space. 



03 The open-plan living area is a nod to the contemporary Kiwi lifestyle.

04 Similar to the wet kitchen concept found throughout Asia, the kitchen is contained within its own space.

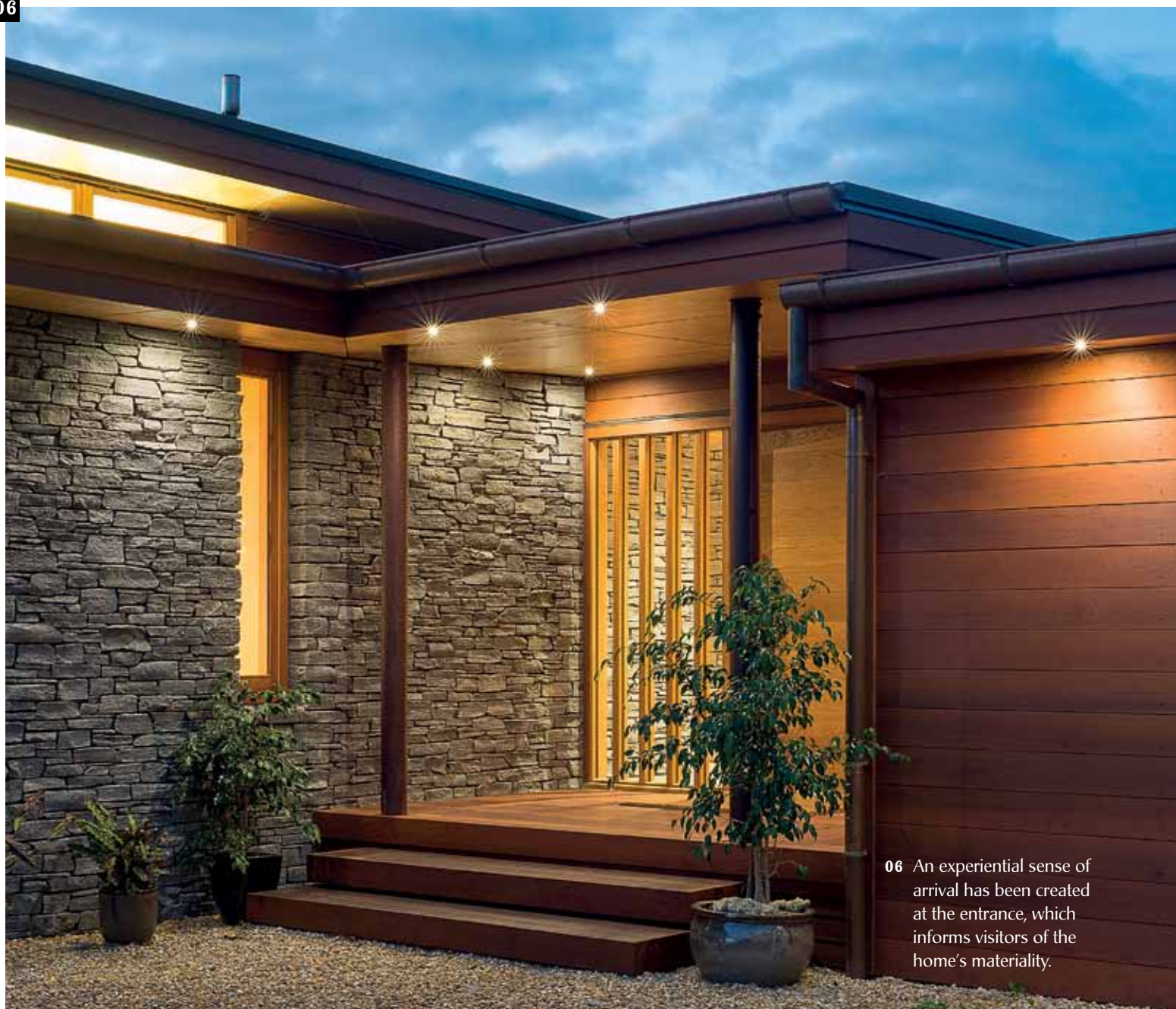
05 A studio space allows the owners, a photographer and a conceptual artist, the freedom to work from home.



- 1 Entrance
- 2 Kitchen
- 3 Dining
- 4 Living
- 5 TV room
- 6 Studio
- 7 Bedroom
- 8 Wardrobe
- 9 Bathroom/ensuite/WC
- 10 Laundry
- 11 Store
- 12 Covered dining
- 13 Deck
- 14 Garage

Floor plan





**06** An experiential sense of arrival has been created at the entrance, which informs visitors of the home's materiality.

### Practice

#### Arthouse Architecture

3 Haven Road, Nelson 7040  
03 546 6664  
[arthousearchitecture.co.nz](http://arthousearchitecture.co.nz)

### Practice profile

Arthouse Architecture's team of award-winning architects takes pride in designing collaboratively with each client to produce a highly resolved and well documented solution.

**Project team:** David Wallace, Helena Glover, Nick Reeve

### Builder

Lovell Inch Building

### Consultants

**Engineer:** Craig Thelin, CDT Consulting (structural); Jeff Swanney, Swanney Ltd (geotech)  
**Quantity surveyor:** Ian Thompson  
**Interior and kitchen designer:** Arthouse Architecture  
**Kitchen manufacturer/joinery:** Waimea West Joinery

### Products

**External walls:** Western red cedar from Rosenfeld Kidson; Waitaha

stone

**Roofing:** Dimond LT7

**Ceiling:** Hoop pine from Plytech

**Internal walls:** Macrocarpa; Waitaha stone; Gib

**Paints and varnishes:** Albescent White from Resene; Dryden WoodOil in Autumn

**Tiling:** Walks and Architech by Floor Gres

**Flooring:** American white oak from Rosenfeld Kidson

**Windows and doors:** Western red cedar (exterior); Macrocarpa (interior)

**Window and door hardware:** Angelo lever handles by Schlage;

flush pull by Windsor Brass; window handles by Chant

**Lighting:** Switch Lighting

**Heating:** Slimline 'E' by Enersave

**Fireplace:** Kronos by Masport; Pyroclassic IV

### Time schedule

**Design and planning:** 8 months

**Construction:** 8 months

### Project areas

**Site size:** 3.68 hectares

**Building areas:** 240m<sup>2</sup> (house); 100m<sup>2</sup> (decks); 60m<sup>2</sup> (garage)