



Seaview

The house that Nick and Jae Major dream about is already standing, rented to tenants for now but waiting for the day they can finally move in. For Nick, it will be a return rather than a new arrival. He spent his teenage years in the old Werneth homestead which once sat a stone's throw from the deck of the house they have built on Werneth Ridge in Atawahi.

"When we discovered the new subdivision of Werneth Ridge in 2005, overlooking my childhood patch, we knew that this was where we wanted to build our retirement home," says Nick.

The Majors knew it would be some time before Jae, who currently works in Australia, was able to live full-time here. So they took their time with the project, choosing an architect in 2007 and starting the build in 2010.

The brief to Arthouse Architecture's Jorgen Andersen was for a single-storey pavilion style home that leveraged the north-west facing site and views across Tasman Bay. Nick says his own interest in architecture meant the brief was comprehensive; he specifically asked for the use of polished concrete and hoop ply in the design.

"I love the semi-industrial feel of the living room with its polished floors and exposed steel beams," he says, "and the dividing space created by the entry gallery with the enormous pivoting main door."

Jorgen's design overlooks Nick's childhood playground to take in the full sweep of the bay, with much of the overall concept dictated by the geotech attributes of the site. A notable change to the original single-storey home was the addition of a garage and workshop under the house – a result of the need to excavate the site to a greater degree than anticipated.

The proximity to the Boulder Bank is acknowledged by stone filled gabion basket retaining walls. The main entry terrace is cantilevered out like a jetty, reached by a staircase from ground level. The entry gallery is a wide dividing space that feels like the space between two tents; the connection between the living space and the surrounding environment continues through to east and west facing covered decks. Sustainability is inherent in the concrete tilt slab panels and floors providing plenty of thermal mass, a solar hot water system with underfloor heating and LED lights.

Nick and Jae's enthusiasm for their future home is obvious. Nick, who spends part of the year in Nelson, has started to create the native garden that he hopes will be a haven for native birds in years to come. "Some of the original plants are now over two metres tall. It's very satisfying and completes the place."

Jae spends less time here but says that she is already anticipating the day they can move into their home.

"I love the ever changing views of the Boulder Bank and the home's simple, uncluttered lines. I'm looking forward to tending the kitchen garden, furnishing the house with eclectic pieces and having friends and family to stay in a place that feels like you're always on holiday."



1. The living room opens out onto a large covered terrace with views over the boulder bank 2. Private terrace from the bedrooms with view towards Nelson and the port 3. Vertical cedar screens the entry platform 4. Gangplank entry platform 5. Terrace wraps around the back of the house connecting to the entry 6. Covered terrace linking to the living room



8.



10.



11.



9.



12.

7. LED lights guide the way to the main door 8. Main entry platform and cedar screen 9. Sitting room that can be closed off from the open plan living and kitchen 10. Owners Jae & Nick 11-12. The original homestead

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Nikki Ryan AREINZ

03 548 7440

027 253 3793

nikki.ryan@mikepero.com

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13. View from the sitting room to the terrace 14. Entry with feature passive solar concrete wall and polished concrete floor 15. Evening view looking over the terrace 16. Entry with oversized black pivoting door 17. Open plan kitchen and living with plywood and acoustic ceiling panels



Blenheim

44 Seymour St, 7201
PH: (03) 5787900
FAX: (03) 5784837
gbblenheim@paradise.net.nz

Nelson

45 Vanguard St, 7010
PH: (03) 5481114
FAX: (03) 5489980
gb.nelson@xtra.co.nz

Motueka

123 High St, 7120
PH: (03) 5288986
FAX: (03) 5288100
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