



# Couple enjoy inside look at process

## Sue Russell

Maurice and Marije Regeer operate their busy architectural designing business MnM Design at Te Puke in the Bay of Plenty.

The couple, originally from the Netherlands, bring a complementary set of skills to their practice.

According to Maurice, who holds a Bachelor of Building and Environment and is a Licensed Building Practitioner, this duality of expertise is the core strength of their business.

"We generally divide up a project, taking specific roles around it from conceptualising the design brief through to project management and the completed build," he says.

"Marije has a Masters in Architecture and she comes up with the concept and floor plan. I am more involved with the technical aspects like dealing with compliances, talking to Council, so together we offer the full package."

In a unique twist the couple have recently experienced what it is like to be their own client, in the construction of their small 'get away from it all' holiday home not far from the ski slopes at Ohakune.

"In our design we were really keen to use natural materials, with bamboo light shades and plywood inside. Even the kitchen bench is constructed of LVL plywood turned on its edges."

The couple engaged the builder in a labour-only contract so everything other than swinging the hammer, which Regeer also got involved in during the construction phase, was their responsibility to deal with.

"It was a very busy time, but being hands on though stressful at times was very rewarding and professionally of great value for me.

"I got to experience absolutely what it is like to build and how you're constantly dealing with the need to manage unexpected issues."

Called the Magnolia Bach the stylish home was also the winner in the residential compact (up to 150 square metres) new home section in the 2014 Architectural Design Awards Taranaki/Wanganui.

The judges said: "The simple outdoor form has been carefully modulated to provide sheltered outdoor spaces.

"Designed around a set of tough parameters including height restrictions, views and prevailing wind."

Magnolia Bach's basic rectangular shape steps

in at its north/west side of the house with the roof extending over cleverly providing escape from the summer sun while enabling the sun's energy to flow through the home, dramatically reducing the need for alternative heating sources.

"We only have a wood burner in the home and we found over Christmas time last year the power bill was \$15," Regeer says.

Maurice says he also enjoys alteration work for the complexities that often come with working within a defined space and around people.

"I'm fortunate to work with a builder who is exceptionally skilled at alteration work because it is

not like starting from scratch with no impediments and that takes a particular type of personality and skill-set to work well in."

Key to a successful designing process, says Maurice, is being upfront right from the start with clients.

"You have to be realistic about budgets. You need to say right from the start 'go back to the bank, get more money or reconsider what you want to do'. That's essential."

Pride of place among the design transformations MnM has undertaken is one very close to the Regeers' hearts – changing what was a run-down old school-house relocated from Paeroa and settled on their backyard to become the hub of their busy practice.

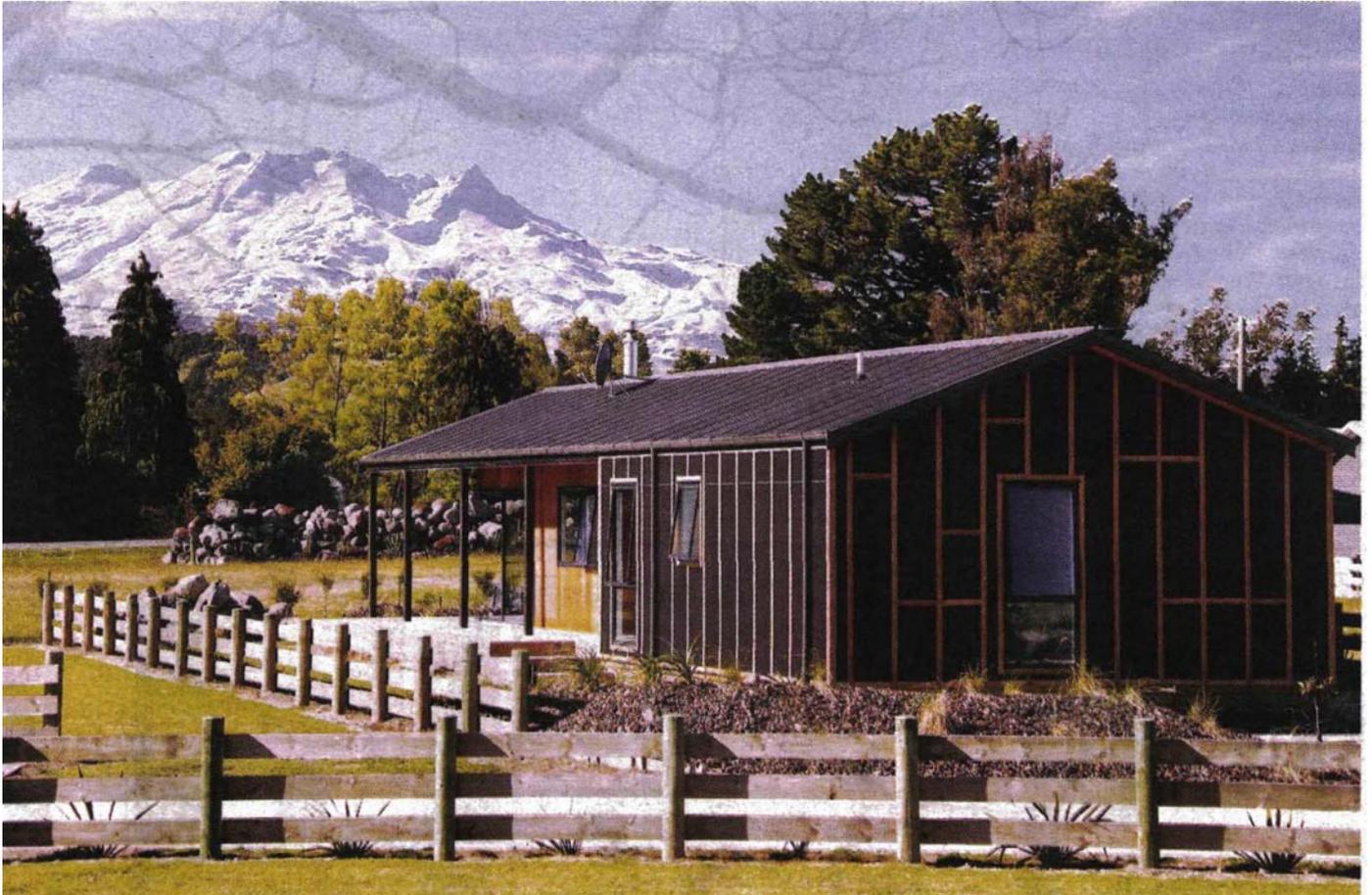
"It was just a nightmare when we first saw it but we were so taken with the tongue-and-groove ceilings and walls that we decided to retain them and create our office with these elements intact," says Maurice.

"When we lifted the old carpet beautiful rimu floorboard appeared so we polished them off of course."

The project became National Finalist in the Architectural Designers New Zealand/Resene Colour in Design award.

The company offers a complete package of building design services including preliminary sketch and 3D artist impressions placed on the planned building site, artist's impressions of

interior spaces throughout to completed design and tender drawings, resource and building consent applications.



MnM Design's Magnolia Bach won the residential compact new home section of last year's Architectural Design Awards Taranaki/Wanganui.

