



# Classic meets contemporary winning formula for new home

---

**“A chunk of large modern architecture would be an imposition in this tightly knit community.”**

---

onsisting of four bedrooms across two levels, the St Albans design is the result of the surrounding context and the client's desire for a comfortable and recognisable family home, while still maintaining a contemporary feel, Robert says.

“A chunk of large modern architecture would be an imposition in this tightly knit community. It was our intention to be a good citizen in the neighbourhood and, at the same time, achieve some level of attitude and character in its design.”

The external material selection relates directly to the local context. “The stripping of the timber cladding, the shininess of the metal sheets and the creamy white paint – all these properties were readily available in the surrounding,” Robert says.

“The unique quality of the project was achieved by combining and contrasting all

these materials.”

The long façade that faces the side of the street is mainly closed to create private space on the inside of the house and also in the garden behind the house. This garden becomes a major part of the interior

space as the facades on the garden side consist of large frameless glass planes of which many can be opened.

By basing the design around the optimal integration of the living space into the outdoor terrain, the building has taken on a multidimensional form. The external structure of the building, together with the interior, forms many “half-open interiors and openings” which enlarge and diversify the living space within the home's interior.

“With a young family, the client wanted the ability to easily block the house off from the street,” Robert Weir explains.

“As the existing home was demolished

due to earthquake damage, the property contained existing trees which we designed around. They were looking for a thermally efficient design that was positioned to get the maximum the sun exposure and deflect the easterly wind.”

The range of Weirwalker designs awarded in this year's ADNZ | Resene awards reflects the diversity in the company's skillset – a commercial/residential mix currently sitting at about 70/30.

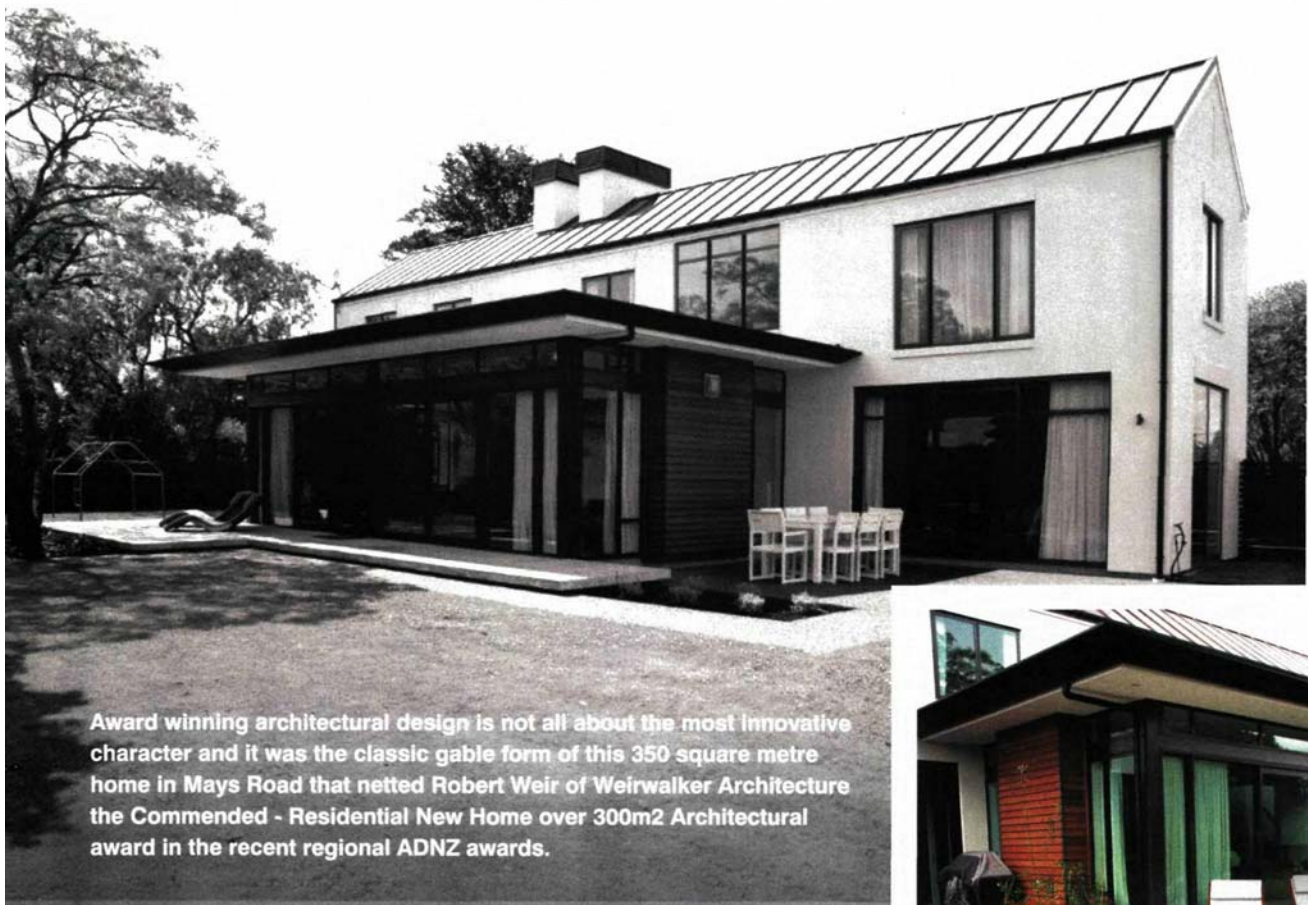
“We've got a real can-do attitude,” Robert

says of the firm.

“Nothing is too big or too small. We've designed everything from a letterbox to the first 5 Star Green Star rated building in the South Island – the HSBC Club Tower. Now we're working on the 19-storey Forsyth Barr building which is to become the new Crowne Plaza Hotel.

“We take every job at face value, nothing is a barrier.”

For more information on Weirwalker visit [www.weirwalker.co.nz](http://www.weirwalker.co.nz).



Award winning architectural design is not all about the most innovative character and it was the classic gable form of this 350 square metre home in Mays Road that netted Robert Weir of Weirwalker Architecture the Commended - Residential New Home over 300m<sup>2</sup> Architectural award in the recent regional ADNZ awards.