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Metropol, Canterbury
10 Oct 2013

General News, page 92 - 701.54 cm²
Magazines Lifestyle - circulation 33,000 (Fortnightly)

ID 217686683

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Clever homes for smart people

Bob Burnett Architecture has established itself as a diverse, multi-award winning architectural firm providing full architectural services from concept through to completion for commercial projects, new homes, or alterations.

The company also has a long-standing reputation for designing energy efficient buildings defined by elegant, timeless architecture.

The mark it has made on the market was evident at the recent Regional ADNZ Resene Architectural Design Awards with the company dominating the residential awards section and winning four awards.

Owner and operator Bob Burnett has more than 22 years' experience in commercial and residential architecture and design. Since starting his own firm around 2000 he has worked along side Shizuka Yasui – an architect from Japan and the firm has now grown to five designers and architects with other part-time

and contract technicians.

Bob is committed to a sustainable and environmentally friendly design and build philosophy. "Homes need to not only look appealing, they also need to be clever, environmentally sound, energy efficient, healthy and comfortable."

"Our new home building clients are smart people who understand the value and importance of good green design. They have done their homework and want a home that reflects these qualities."

Because much of the building industry is strongly focused on achieving low cost builds, many homes are built to little more than the minimum building code – something that Bob's team is working hard to counter against.

"This allows an alarmingly poor 3-4 stars on the Homestar scale of 1 to 10, whereas our homes start at six and are commonly 7 or 8 stars, which is the highest achieved to date."

Homestar is a joint venture partnership between the Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ) and the New Zealand



Green Building Council. Led by these two organisations, industry professionals across the entire building and construction sector including from Government, contributed time and expertise in order to develop a single residential rating tool for New Zealand's new and existing homes.

There are significant benefits and return on investment by striving for a higher star rating.

"Ultimately it is crucial to get the right advice as it simply won't work without good integrated design from the early concept stage. Ratings becoming more established and will provide credibility for good designs."

The recent Auckland Unitary Plan calls for a minimum of six stars and an Auckland study showed a six star home costs about 2.2% more to build than the New Zealand

standard. A six star would also approximately halve running costs, and with a good integrated, thermally efficient design, zero energy can be achieved with 8 stars or above.

Other than the financial equation, there are tangible benefits in enhanced wellbeing, comfort and health. Property values are greater too with American research showing a 9-10% increase in value for green homes.

When Eco Loans or Green Mortgages are established in New Zealand, owners will finance the cost of a higher performance building and service the borrowing from the ongoing savings.

"New technologies and good design, along with performance measurement will help facilitate this and provide a win, win, win, for owners, financiers and the planet."

For more information phone 0800 002 674, or visit www.bobburnett.co.nz.



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