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Winning designs

Local pair recognised

A Te Puke couple that arrived from The Netherlands six years ago, has won three regional awards in this year's ADNZ Resene Architectural Design Awards judged recently.

Maurice Regeer and Marije Hoorstra, of MnM Design, were delighted last year when their renovated at-home office won a colour design commendation.

"It was a bit different this year," said Marije. "We entered in the area where the projects were completed. Last year, entries were based upon where the designer lived.

They were delighted to win the up-to-150sq m regional Taranaki/Wanganui/Manawatu award for the ski lodge they designed at Ohakune, Maurice said.

"Hopefully people realise that they can have everything they want in a smaller space. The cost of larger houses means many people will have to settle for smaller, well-designed homes. We are happy to design for limited budgets.

"Coming to New Zealand and finding 'family rooms' was a bit of a mystery to us. Back home in Holland we don't have extra rooms just for children to clear off to while parents are entertaining their friends," he said.

Marije was particularly pleased with awards they won for a home in Bellevue, Tauranga.

"When you design a home, you need the client to trust you, that it will all work out for the best.

"This was a project for friends and at one stage, one of them said they weren't too sure about the windows; no two were the same.

"But when it started to take shape, they could see that the windows framed different views. Sometimes we have to visit a site a few times to get exactly what the client wants accentuated.

"So often there are compromises between what the client wants and what the designer can provide. (But) it's good if there are not too many compromises," she said.

"Hopefully people will learn to trust their designers a little more. There are so many different materials and colours that a client might not be aware of but a designer should be."

Marije and Maurice also won a Bay of Plenty-only 3D modelling competition with their plan for a new kindergarten at Golden Sands, Papamoa Beach.

The national ADNZ Resene Architectural Design Awards will be announced in September.

■ **MnM Design Ltd is at 123 Boucher Ave, Te Puke. Phone (07) 573 8176, email marije@mnmdesign.co.nz or visit www.mnmdesign.co.nz**



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CHEERS: Maurice Regeer and Marije Hoornstra, of MnM Design Ltd, with their latest awards.



LEFT: The interior of the Bellevue house.