



EDITORIAL

Building dream houses



A new home is probably the biggest financial commitment you will ever make. How can you ensure success, asks **David Killick.**

Is it possible to build a perfect home, one that not only satisfies practical needs for shelter but also delights owners and visitors? Or is the whole process of building inevitably fraught with anxiety, something stressful that is best avoided?

Nothing humans ever do is totally stress-free. But some outcomes are less stressful than others. Part of the reason why there is no ironclad guarantee is that the experience of building a



Over the moon: Matthew and Ann-Maree Sandrey are delighted with their 'new' home, originally designed by architect Paul Foley for builder Colin Gregg.

Photo David Killick

house is emotional not just mechanical; it is about building dreams, not just banging in nails.

Could there be some guidelines to help you at least maximise your chances of success? We share a few ideas in our cover story on the following pages.

It is rare to meet homeowners who are totally over the moon about their new house but that was the case for Matthew and Ann-Maree Sandrey, who moved into a home in Harewood designed by architect Paul Foley, originally built for builder Colin Gregg, after their previous home was demolished following the earthquakes. They love it for its curves and artistry and sense of peace and tranquility.

Karen Manson and Chris Dopheide, a young couple who worked in architecture in London before moving back to New Zealand, wanted to build a new family home in Christchurch, which they now share with daughter Evelyn. Practical design, space saving, and energy efficiency were top priorities.

Maximising space and comfort

were also high on the agenda for Tom McKenzie, an engineer with a masters degree in environmental energy-efficient architecture, and architectural designer Mitchell Coll, in developing Matipo on the Green in Riccarton. This high-density apartment complex reflects European design principles adapted for New Zealand.

Ady Shannon talks to architectural designer Pete Wynyard, of Archimetrix, who designed a new home on Mount Pleasant to replace one lost in the earthquakes. "The challenge," Shannon says, "was to come up with an alternative design solution that would cost no more than replicating the original home, built to the current building code."

LED lighting is a technology already making a big impact in homes. Erin Boyle visited an Auckland showroom to sample the latest Philips Hue series of coloured LED lights controllable by a smart phone. See for yourself whether they would brighten up your life.