



Small firm with big outlook

Karen Phelps

Cullen Keiser Architecture has a new dedicated office and the company has extensive expansion plans, says company director Daniel Cullen.

"It's given us more room to expand the business and the capacity to take on larger projects and employ more people. We're a young firm with a lot of potential as we are always aiming to do things even better," he explains.

The company had its beginnings in 2003 as Neil Keiser Architecture. When Daniel, an architectural designer with 13 years experience, joined Neil in 2013 the pair started Cullen Keiser Architecture. A year later Neil retired and Daniel took over the business.

Based in Tauranga, Cullen Keiser Architecture has experienced strong growth, says Daniel who operates the business with wife Danielle, who takes on administration role. The company currently employs one full-time staff member with plans to triple the team including a senior architectural draughtsperson. Daniel is currently focusing on developing the business systems and processes to cope with the growth.

He says a key point of difference for Cullen Keiser Architecture is the focus on service. This involves not just producing good quality drawings and design work but also quick turnaround to keep projects moving forward.

"Our passion is contemporary architecture using the latest materials and styles for commercial and

top end residential buildings. We design places and spaces that perform with leading edge design and environmental responsibility.

"Our focus is to provide a professional quality service that stands out among others and that is reflected in our design. Our biggest marketing tool is the buildings that we design and clients we work for. Their referral is where the majority of our future work comes from so it is important we keep good relationships to further increase our profile," explains Daniel.

One of the company's seminal projects so far has been Hamilton Heliport. Located next to Hamilton Airport terminal the facility is utilised as a ranging set of helicopter flight services, which meant the hangars were split into 20m x 18m clear span bays with a clear span bi-fold hanger door of 18m wide and minimum 4.5m height and necessitated custom-made structures by building contractor Coresteel. Cullen Keiser Architecture worked with the client and contractor to undertake a feasibility study and costings to ensure the project was on budget.

"We may be a small company but we are up there with the big guys in terms of producing high profile buildings with architectural flair, working with both the client and contractors to get the desired result," says Daniel.

Cullen Keiser Architecture is a member of Architectural Designers New Zealand and is registered with the Licensed Building Practitioner's scheme. The company completes residential and commercial work both nationally and internationally.



Business North, North Island

01 Aug 2016, by Karen Phelps

General News, page 34 - 290.00 cm²

Magazines Business - circulation 31,000 (Bi monthly)

ID 645719221

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The Hamilton Heliport was a high-profile project for Tauranga based Cullen Keiser Architecture.