



**EDITORIAL**



Tréology Odyssey totara table is made in Christchurch out of ancient timber recovered from Southland swamps.

# Craftsmanship celebrated



It pays to invest in quality furniture, writes **David Killick.**

**W**hat furniture you buy depends on many factors – cost, certainly, but also function, quality, and looks. You want furniture that serves its purpose, looks aesthetically pleasing, is well made, and good value.

That last factor, value, is one we sometimes overlook. At first glance, that new sofa may seem pricey but factor in how long you might keep it: 10 years at least, possibly a lot longer. Some pieces

of mid-20th century furniture by top designers have become sought-after classics today. So, in the long term, buying quality pays off.

In New Zealand, we are fortunate to have an excellent selection of both high quality New Zealand-made and imported furniture. When you buy, make sure you ask about the materials used and type of construction – those things you can't see. Does it have a solid frame for example?

More of us have also become concerned about the sustainability of resources used in manufacture, and whether the products we are buying are environmentally friendly. In this issue, sustainability expert Rhys Taylor takes an in-depth look at what goes into the furniture available for sale in New Zealand. He finds the approach to furniture making, and the choices available, have changed significantly.

It is also a tribute to their skill and determination that so many local furniture makers are thriving, despite huge competition from cheap imports. In our cover story, meet

Christchurch furniture-maker David Shaw. As well as making furniture in his Christchurch factory, he also now imports stylish contemporary furniture by Australian and Italian designers. Also check out another innovative Kiwi-Italian piece of furniture, the Re-vive recliner, and why not have a go, or encourage someone you know to have a go at textile art as part of this year's Bolt of Cloth Textile Design Awards?

Also in this issue, we feature award-winning houses in this year's Canterbury ADNZ/Resene Architectural Design Awards.

Yes, it has been a little bit chilly, hasn't it? Those living in rural inland Canterbury, like garden designer Simonetta Ferrari, found themselves surrounded by a good dumping of snow. The white stuff transformed the landscape and can make for delightful pictures, but it can also create its share of problems.

We also have more advice for keeping warm and saving money in our heating and insulation supplement. Hang in there – spring is just around the corner!