



Design for the Bay and beyond

10 QUESTIONS

Tauranga architectural designer Cameron Cotton won two major awards at the Architectural Designers New Zealand's Bay of Plenty regional awards on Saturday. Mr Cotton won the residential compact category for his CUBA design, a 40ft shipping container transformed into a cosy cedar-clad bach and also won the best 150sq m to 300sq m residential home.

1 Why did you choose architecture as a career path?

At an early age I used to draw up house plans and elevations. I worked as a builder in Europe and saw some fantastic architecture which inspired me to come back to New Zealand to study as an architectural designer.

2 What is the best/most important part of your job?

Being able to create a vision and turn it into a reality.

3 What is the worst/most difficult part?

One difficult aspect when altering or adding to a home is understanding the structural

elements behind the scenes without any documentation.

4 Where do you get your inspiration?

Frank Lloyd Wright [an American architect, interior designer, writer and educator] and Le Corbusier [a Swiss architectural pioneer] have been a huge inspiration for their ability to be way ahead of the times and their buildings are still current.

5 How did you come up with the CUBA design?

Clever planning and liaising between myself and Ingrid Cotton, my business partner and interior designer, to maximise the confined spaces of a shipping container.

6 Which features were you determined to include, regardless of cost?

The vast tinted green glass joinery with black louvers in the front facade really enhance the overall look.

7 Which things should not be compromised on when designing a home?

Spending as much time as possible at the planning stage



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to create something innovative and make the rest of the process run as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

8 What would you say is your biggest achievement?
Designing houses in Hawaii in the last three years, learning a new method of construction and using imperial measurements has been challenging but rewarding.

9 If you were given free rein to design anything and have it built, what would it be?
I am a very keen scuba diver instructor so would love to design an underwater home with great views.

10 Where do you see yourself in the future?
Being a major international architectural designer and seeing our Cubular container buildings spread right throughout New Zealand, Australia and America.