

Have a holiday at home

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Size: house 261sq m, land 462sq m
Price indication: Buyer interest expected above \$2million
Inspect: Saturday and Sunday, 3.15pm-4pm
Auction: Monday March 24, 7pm, on site
On the web: www.harcourts.co.nz/Property/676474
School zones: Western Springs College, Kowhai Intermediate, Auckland Girls' Grammar School, Grey Lynn School, Newton Central School
Contact: Wayne Marmont, mobile 0274 772342, ph (09) 486 8250 or Chico Timoti, mobile 021 962 140 or (09) 486 1026

Features

Stylishly renovated four-bedroom villa with great views, storage, internal access garaging and swimming pool.



By **Jane Loudon**

FEATURE HOME

18 ARIKI ST, GREY LYNN

Dougal Swift and his fiancée Faye took just three weeks to begin realising their dream home — at least to lay the foundations for it.

The couple was already living in Grey Lynn when they decided to buy this house in Ariki St because it had the potential to offer brilliant sunset and sea views across to the Waitakere Ranges and Cox's Bay.

Working with architect Tim Dorrington, they devised a plan to more than double the size of the house, extensively develop its basement, add a new wing to the top level and flatten the property's steeply sloping rear site.

Their ambitious scheme meant the house, which sits forward on its 462sq m site, had to be rolled to the back of the section while 37 truck loads of soil were removed from the site and new foundations and block work was completed. It was then shifted back to its original position.

Swift, who relished the challenge of implementing the new design, says that initial part of the renovation took less than a month to complete just before Christmas 2011.

Apart from its immaculately landscaped front garden, which includes a small lawn, modern paving and minimalist planting, the house looks little changed from how it would have been built 114 years ago as a small, square-fronted villa.

But it is obvious the minute you walk through the front door how cleverly this renovation has blended old and new to create a spacious, light-filled home with intelligent living spaces and excellent flow.

"The idea was to create a sense of resort-style living, so that we felt as though we were on holiday when we were at home," says Swift, who was very involved in the design process, including designing all the outdoor spaces.

The front door leads into the villa's small central hallway, which has three of the home's four bedrooms and the main bathroom opening off its sides.

A new staircase, made of Vitek hardwood, leads down to the lower level of the house which used to house a poky one-bedroom apartment with kitchenette and bathroom.

This lower level has been gutted and extended towards the northwest to include two large, modern living spaces — the open-plan kitchen, dining and family room and a