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SITE SPECIFIC

An extended Auckland family have worked with their architects to bring a specific brief to life: the creation of two homes on one site that work together, while each affording their own separate enjoyment of the surrounding land.

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HOMES HOMES



BUILDING A NEW HOME CAN BE AN ARDUOUS TASK -

more trying. But when Mark and Susie Easterbrook came across an idyllic section in West Auckland it was love at first site. "We

had made the decision to move to Titirangi from Mt Albert and

The first decision very easily out of the way, the Easterbrooks

help them with their site-specific build? They dreamt of bringing

up their boys Hunter (10) and Jake (5) in a home that would take

mother and stepfather who were moving with them to help out.

to work with any of them in case things went wrong," Mark

"I have several friends who are architects, but I didn't want

laughs. So, after consulting said friends, it was decided that Tim

Dorrington of DAA would be a good fit for what they had in mind.

As creative director at boutique design and advertising agency

Goodfolk, Mark had some strong ideas for the house design - but

this wasn't a problem for Tim. "I didn't want to be an interfering

client, but I also had my own thoughts," Mark says. "Luckily, Tim

and I were on the same wavelength with most things. I'd like

to think my contributions to the design process had a positive

advantage of the surrounding environment - but, as Jake has been

diagnosed with autism, they also required a second house for Susie's

moved to the second – which architect should they choose to

build," explains Mark. "And, I'm slightly embarrassed to say, we

and finding the right piece of land to build it on can be even

fell for the first piece of land we visited!"

impact - hopefully Tim agrees!"



OPEN-PLAN LIVING The raw materials used for the interior reveal how the home was made - an honest design that is not only aesthetically pleasing, but one that is also sturdy enough to withstand the knocks from a young family.

The design team - Tim and his colleague Marie-Claire

placement and orientation of the two dwellings on the site." says Marie-Claire, who was responsible for the finer details buildings that they operate as an extended family unit, but there are no windows which look from one house into the other. The offset and 15-degree change in orientation also means that neither house stares directly out at the walls of the other, but rather each gets its own views of the site and surrounding bush."

The end result is impressive, in the most unassuming of ways. On approach from the sweeping driveway, the main home appears humble in structure. But on entering, you're welcomed by a great sense of space as the centralised living area opens on both sides onto lawns and an outdoor living area.

Flanked on either side by bedrooms and bathrooms, for Mark and Susie at one end, with the kids' rooms at the other, the spaces are all colour-coded. Mark explains: "We used yellow for the boys' rooms, since they're the sunshine in the family; orange for the front door, because it's warm and inviting; turquoise for the



SUITABLE FOR ALL SEASONS Designed to be comfortable in all kinds of weather, the broad verandah and high clerestory windows in the living area mean that while there is always plenty of sun in winter, the home is shady and well ventilated in summer

Henderson – set about creating a pair of buildings, compact in size, with forms inspired by the simple structure of a shed and a tent. But, although aesthetics were important, something else trumped them. "The need for privacy was the major driving factor for the

of the design. "It is evident from the physical closeness of the

metres, and the main living space four metres wide, it efficiently contains an open-plan kitchen and dining area, along with a drop-down sunken lounge. It is wrapped on two sides by low in-built shelves full of books and games. And, with the TV tucked away behind more in-built cabinetry, you can easily imagine nights spent reading around the pot-belly fire in this modern take on a conversation pit.

It all just works. After all, a good home is one that can comfortably accommodate not only family life, but those the family enjoys sharing it with. "We were invited back for the housewarming and it was fantastic to see all of these social spaces working beautifully, and everyone enjoying being in them," says Marie-Claire. Job done - extremely well.

bathrooms and laundry, to signify water; and red for the master

bedroom - because if it's closed, it means 'No entry'!"

These pops of colour work well with the rich, timber-

oriented palette of materials - plywood, aluminium joinery

and concrete floors giving the house a bach-in-the-bush feel.

This is accentuated by the Glulam beams that frame the living

space, and floor-to-ceiling glass looking out to the established

fruit trees and natives beyond – the perfect spot for the boys

Regardless of whether they're playing outside or in, clever

planning has provided plenty of space for varied family

activities. While the footprint is only a modest 120 square

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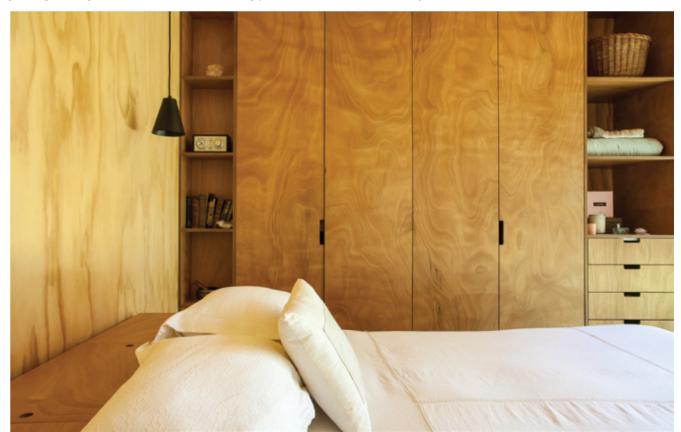
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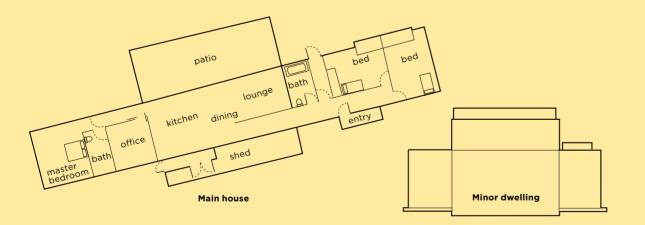


BATHROOM Keeping with the bach-like theme, a stand-alone tangerine enamel bath adds a pop of colour to the otherwise bright white bathroom. The bespoke vanities were designed by Tim Dorrington and wall hung to maximise space. **MASTER BEDROOM** This room is a haven for Mark and Susie, with a wall of glass providing uninterupted views out to the bush. The built-in ply wardrobe makes efficient use of the space.





KIDS' BEDROOM Windowseats in the kids' bedrooms are turned into study desks with the easy removal of the padded squabs – an aspect which future-proofs the home for a growing family. **FLOOR PLAN** Oriented to the north-west, the main house is a long narrow structure that opens from both sides, allowing plenty of sun and natural cross-ventilation. The smaller dwelling, affectionately referred to as the "mini me", shares a similar aesthetic, but is oriented north to provide privacy and bush views of its own.



AT A GLANCE

The project: With the help of Tim Dorrington and Marie-Claire Henderson of DAA, Mark and Susie Easterbrook have created a home for themselves and their two boys Hunter (10) and Jake (5) in Titirangi – along with a second dwelling for Susie's mother and stepfather.

What are you looking forward to at home this summer? Throwing open the doors and letting the sun in, eating home-grown fruit, and sharing long, lazy evenings with our friends.

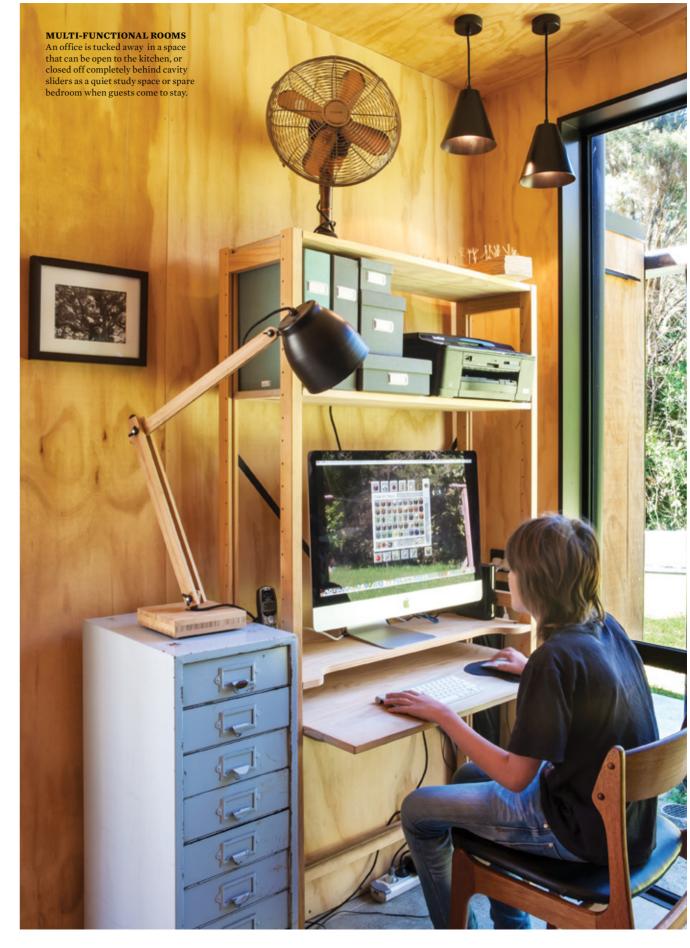
What are your favourite things about your new home? The way it lets the light in; the uncurtained wall of glass in the master bedroom that looks into the bush; and the convertible office/spare bedroom space.

What are your top tips for juggling building a house with work and family life? If you can, live close. And on weekends,

If you can, live close. And on weekends, especially if you have kids, spend lots of time just being in your new space even when it's a bare patch of land. Also, audit your possessions and decide what you

really want to bring into your new house - we ditched a huge amount of stuff.

Now your home is finished, what's next? There's a famous story about Frank Lloyd Wright designing a doghouse for one of his clients. I'm hoping I can con Tim into designing a woodshed for me. In the meantime, there's landscaping and gardens to tackle.





ABOVE With an honest palette of materials, plywood cladding and bright pops of colour give this home a classic bach aesthetic.

DESIGN DETAILS

A primary colour palette mixed with ply is the material key to this striking home.



Triangle pendant light by Douglas and Bec, \$240, douglasandbec.com







Resene Paradiso



\$199.95, nood.co.nz

Joska and Sons Poise lamp, \$560, joskaandsons.com





Huia Bird cushion in cyan, \$59.90, ikoiko.co.nz

White and Newton teak dining suite, \$4200, mrbigglesworthy.co.nz