



Mark Woodward right at home.



THE URBAN RURAL EXPERIENCE

A new home south of Auckland blends city chic with rural rustic.

If there was a word that defined the home that Mark and Manyu Woodward have created on the outskirts of the South Auckland community of Tuakau it might well be 'rurbanisation'. It's the hybrid word that explains how contemporary edginess can feel right at home in the country.

It helps that Mark's job as a concept design consultant for DB requires him to test new ideas and push the boundaries of what works where people come to eat, drink and play.

Although there is a city slickness to their home, the Woodwards love the 'completely off the beaten track' land they've built on.

"We have north-west views down the valley with Tuakau township in the distance. It is a truly rural setting so we felt the rustic look of board and batten would suit the location and outlook."

For that and other reasons, Customkit came on board as a building partner.

From the outside the home looks like a pleasant rural home, but it is on the inside that things really come alive. Customkit's LVL portals provided the means to create dramatic living and entertaining areas. Mark and Manyu used this to their advantage in designing their own decorated exposed trusses and raking ceiling.

Eat, drink and play

Entertaining and enjoying wide open spaces came very much to the fore in developing the plans for their four bedroom home says Mark.

"The Customkit building system gave us the means to create areas that flowed together but that also functioned on their own. We went after an industrial

feel to the interior design with the open plan kitchen, dining area and lounge. This is accentuated with the polished concrete floors also being a feature."

Bathrooms have been fitted with bespoke, classical English-style butler sinks. A secret garden outlook for the main bathroom and a recessed front deck area adds to the modern feeling that Mark and Manyu cherish.

While much of the overall project was big on detail and scale, two episodes in particular will remain in their memories. One was the on-site installation of the exposed trusses which, from both an engineering and transport perspective, was no mean feat.

The other, and perhaps with the most pressing lifestyle outcomes, was installing a cast iron, 250kg claw foot bath tub in the main bathroom through the window.

Wise words

Blending his design capabilities with his lifestyle dreams has allowed Mark to develop some very specific advice for those contemplating building something in a rural setting.

"First off, identify the core occasions that you believe will take place throughout your home now and into the future. Then set about making sure these spaces are aligned with these activities so you can create 'zones' for adult versus children living, and entertainment.

"This process will also help you in determining where kids' bedrooms might be, as well as where guest bathrooms are located. Try and have all bedrooms west-facing in order to get afternoon sun. Spend time creating 'mood' boards for interior alignment through materials and colours to define choices. A colour consultant is also a good investment to ensure your colours stay timeless and marry up well with all other interior and exterior colour palettes.

"Finally, make sure you're dealing with suppliers who work with you and not against. If we built again in a similar setting, we would in a heartbeat build with Customkit once more."

TOP TO BOTTOM: Blending in with the landscape; high ceilings and beams are a key feature; the 250 kg bath finds pride of place; careful planning helps define kids' zones.

Products

- Paint:** Interior Resene Double Alabaster
- Roof:** Colorsteel Endura Ironsand supplied by Franklin Long Roofing
- Rainwater Systems:** Marley Stormcloud
- Windows & Doors:** VANTAGE Matt Ironsand supplied by Summit Aluminium
- Builder:** Richard Seeger

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