



CHANGES OF LATITUDE, CHANGES OF ATTITUDE

A hankering for a new adventure prompted a professional Auckland couple to leave the big city behind.

It's called Ingleside, named after an ancestral home in England, and coincidentally – some might say uncannily – it is also the title of the 18th hole at the nearby Martinborough Golf Course.

It is the lifestyle adventure and new home for 30-year Devonport residents Rick and Carolyn Thompson. Their decision to 'go country' wasn't so much a bucket list-type of life event, rather an epiphany.

"We love Devonport but it got to the point that, because of traffic, it became a major logistical exercise when you wanted to do anything or go anywhere," says Carolyn. "The project sort of evolved but we figured we were still at an age when a new journey was both possible and exciting."

The only blip in realising their Green Acres-esque lifestyle makeover was one daughter's reaction. She suggested they seek psychological counselling before selling up.

Somewhere along the planning line the Thompsons spent a night at Taupo's world-famous Huka Lodge. It describes itself as a place that invites you to "enter a world where elegant and generous hospitality meets sophistication and style, creating a welcoming haven."

That proposition, along with the high ceilings and open spaces, convinced the couple this was the type of place they wanted to create.

The Thompsons had friends in Northland who had built with Customkit, so they knew exactly who to contact to create their stunning wooden home.

"Our main reason for going with Customkit – along with the overall great product and service – was the unique ability, through LVL portals, to create open spaces with plenty of height. The portals are an integral design feature of the house and we just love them."

By any standard the home was a big

undertaking. The 483m² structure has a centralised, open plan living area with high cathedral ceilings and feature wooden beams. This room, and a toilet featuring wine bottle wallpaper, are Carolyn's favourites.

The living area includes their 'dream' kitchen with a spacious scullery and substantial dining and lounge areas.

"We really like the connection with the French doors to the outside living area," says Rick. "We had a great summer, and even on a cold winter's day the sun pours in. I also have to say I particularly like my 'sports' lounge where I can watch my sport and relax. Rather like the ultimate man cave."

A 22-metre-long entry pavilion links the various wings of the house. Its polished concrete floors and skillion tongue-and-groove-style ceiling provides an extensive blank canvas for the Thompson's artworks.

The master bedroom wing features a



OPPOSITE PAGE: Ingleside takes shape on the Martinborough landscape.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: A 22m-long hallway sometimes doubles as a cricket pitch; wide open spaces and ceilings; the Great Hall is a favourite space; opportunities for elegant and generous hospitality; a bathroom inspired by bottles; Rick and Carolyn reflect on their lifestyle move.

spacious sleeping area, ensuite and study. Another wing has been designed for family and guests, with three double bedrooms, and internal access to the garage for all-weather protection.

“People told me that building a house is very stressful, but I loved every minute of it and would do it again with Customkit,” says Carolyn. “They were involved with the whole project – it wasn’t just a case of ‘here’s your plans and off you go.’ They took interest and pride throughout.”

As for any family misgivings, the children spent Christmas staying in their parent’s new haunt and the whole family is now on board, enjoying Ingleside down under.

- Products** Exterior: Resene Bokara Grey.
Interior: Resene Titania, Half Hillary, Double Tea, Quarter Powder Blue, Oilskin, Napa
Roof: Colorsteel Endura Thunder Grey, fabricated by Metalcraft Roofing
Windows and Doors: VANTAGE Matt Titania
Tiles: Brown Wood Tiles (Tile Warehouse’s Babylon) Timber tile in front door and hall sliding doors:
Roy Yates Joiner, Masterton
Fireplace and master vanity:
Brian Jeffreys, Martinborough
Wallpaper, toilet 1: Wine Boxes from the Exposed Collection, Vision Wallpapers; toilet 2: Woods from Cole and Sons
Concrete Floor: Peter Fell, colour 323
Kitchen: Creative Kitchens Carterton
Cladding: Triclad Plywood
Rainwater Systems: Marley Spouting

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