



BARN SWEET HOME

Barns were once practical farm buildings for livestock, but now it's humans making the move in droves to live in barns with all the creature comforts of home.

They're adaptable, flexible, and given the fact barn designs were originally based on church layouts, a 'heavenly' place for storing special possessions and as animal abodes.

Barns are now the residence of choice for a growing number of people who love the combination of rustic living and oodles of space. People also like the sense of tradition and history in the places they now call home.

That was the case for builder Robin Verhoef. Many people dream of having their own slice of 'Americana' to work with and live in, and helping him create his wide open space was a job for Customkit.

"Having been a builder for many years, I know a good product and design when I see it. The engineering and design is structurally solid which was a priority to me in an industry where standards can be compromised which then can have an impact on the end result.

"My brief to Customkit was to achieve a

quality workshop, barn and storage facility with the addition of a subsidiary dwelling at the rear including the mezzanine area.

"The Customkit system provided the design flexibility that enabled us to develop the project as we wanted. The advice provided was practical and always solution- focused.

"I'm very pleased with the outcome, having achieved the barn/workshop of my dreams and a building that will stand the test of time."

Another wanting the best of all worlds was Warwick Bremner. It took him 15 years to achieve his dream and get planning permission although he wasn't waiting for consent from the local council, but rather from his wife.

The barn and accommodation also had the main 'job' of housing some very precious treasures that needed secure storage.

"I shopped around to find a system that would offer protection to some vintage cars that originally came from my father's

collection. Two of these have been handed down to me and it was my responsibility to develop a home for them that would keep the vintage cars in prime condition. Once I found out about Customkit I was convinced they were the people to go with."

Warwick built the barn himself, working closely with Customkit to resolve any issues that came up during the build.

"The hardest part was finishing the portals and beams... largely because of the poor weather at the time. Lucky for me the instructions from Customkit meant that even the elements couldn't stop me from building what I wanted."

Customkit's Managing Director Michael Anselmi says the house/barn combination is catching on among people who want the flexibility of storing their belongings and also housing themselves.

"Often this is an ideal solution for getting people started on a lifestyle block before they move on to build their main house. For others this turns out to be just what

OPPOSITE PAGE: Robin Verhoef's home is an American-style barn that houses him and his life possessions.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Warwick Bremner's home includes safe storage for precious treasures; 'Home sweet home' in a barn is easy to achieve; there's a world of room for toys, boys and working places and spaces; the ultimate car park for the classic collection.

BELOW LEFT: Customkit's Michael Anselmi - pictured here with Atareta - reaches out to help the endangered New Zealand falcon. Find out more at www.wingspan.co.nz

they want in a home... one that is easy to maintain and also keep secure.

"We talk about barn houses but in fact living areas can be included on most structures. We also find that once people fall in love with the rustic 'barn and batten' look they're more than happy to come to us to build barn-style homes, houses, cottages and other buildings."

Products Verhoef Barn - Paint: exterior Resene Napa for exterior walls and Ironsand for doors; **Windows and Doors:** VANTAGE Ironsand; **Roof:** Colorsteel Endura in Karaka Green, corrugated profile; **Spouting:** Colorsteel box section; Custom-made ply and batten sectional garage doors supplied by Doors 2000.
Bremner Barn - Paint: exterior Resene Customkit Buildings Beige.

• To see more Customkit buildings and to find the one that's right for you go to www.customkit.co.nz



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