



## Couldrey House

Wenderholm Regional Park



This large home dating from 1857 sits within the Wenderholm Regional Park and is open for public viewing.

Its original owner was a local farmer and businessman, Robert Graham, but it has since had a succession of owners and as many alterations in response to their various requirements. The result is a two storeyed, nine bedroom home of disparate and sprawling form with a number of different architectural periods and 'features' represented but a largely Victorian-Edwardian style predominant.

The majority of renovation and restoration work occurred during its ownership by the Couldrey family, whose name it still bears. Consequently a Conservation Plan prepared for the house in 2001 recommended that the Couldrey period (1957-73) should be the reference point for any further efforts to preserve its 'authenticity'.

A catalyst for updating the colour scheme in 2010 was the need to replace the

roofing with a pre-coated maximum durability product appropriate for coastal environments. The roof colour selection was therefore pivotal to the final colour scheme chosen for the house and its outbuildings.

Coloured photographs of the house taken at conclusion of the Couldrey renovations and supported by paint scrapings collected from various locations, indicated that the house had been a grey/blue colour with white trim and a light or white roof – Colours that referenced the sea and the sky and gave the house a certain 'Cape Cod' seaside feeling.

A further factor Salmond Reed considered in formulating colour selections was the unique siting of the house. Surrounded by a tranquil colonial garden, backed by bush-clad hills and facing towards a sandy beach and seascape, this sensitive environment demanded a sensitive response in terms of colour selection so that the house would neither dominate nor be overwhelmed by its surroundings.

With the above in mind we began by choosing Colorcote Gull Grey for the roof. This selection acknowledged the light roof colour used by the Couldreys but softened and darkened it to sit more comfortably into the dominant bush backdrop. This roof colour formed the springboard for the remaining colour choices. The blue palette of the Couldrey era was referenced but again we opted to soften and 'green' the colouration so that it would sit more comfortably into the rural, coastal surrounds.

Resene Destiny was chosen for the weatherboards and contrasted with Resene Half Colonial White, Resene Alabaster and Resene Zombie on the various timber joinery elements. The verandah floor was finished with Resene Waterborne Sidewalk Amber Grey paint and the base of the house and the chimneys were painted with Resene Tapa.

This combination has achieved a sensitive and successful enhancement of this substantial and significant historic home.



**Colour Selection:** Anne Shanks, Salmond Reed Architects  
[www.salmondreed.co.nz](http://www.salmondreed.co.nz)  
**Project Director:** Bruce Petry, Salmond Reed Architects  
**Painting Contractor:** Platinum Painters

**Photographer:** Lloyd Macomber, Salmon Reed Architects  
**Colours Used:** Resene Alabaster, Resene Amber Grey, Resene Destiny, Resene Half Colonial White, Resene Tapa, Resene Zombie

**Products Used:** Resene Hi-Glo, Resene Super Gloss, Resene Waterborne Sidewalk

Alabaster

Amber Grey

Destiny

Half Colonial White

Tapa

Zombie