

MARLBOROUGH SANCTUARY

MEDITERRANEAN INSPIRED DESIGN IN THE SOUTH ISLAND'S MOST PROSPEROUS WINE GROWING REGION

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AS MARLBOROUGH LOCALS BORN AND BRED, MIKE AND Barbara Guillemot love nothing more than the parched Blenheim hills and the rows of grapes that usually cover them. But after starting out on an apple orchard that eventually became a vineyard, they were ready for a step back. Now on 3.5 acres, they had thought about planting a small area in grapes, but changed their mind; deciding instead to simply enjoy living in their new house.

The view from their new residence is nothing short of amazing, with views reaching to Cloudy Bay, an assortment of vineyards and paddocks, the Port Underwood Hills and on a clear day, to the Kapiti Coast. “The views were so important to the design of the home,” says Barb. The house is only one room wide, and this lead to every single room in the house enjoying the view. It was also an idea that husband Mike wholeheartedly approved of. As the owner of **Mike Guillemot Building Ltd**, Mike worked around the clock to build their new home, and it was a process that he found rather enjoyable. “I really

loved building this place,” he admits, “and with Dean’s design, there were no hiccups.” Dean is of course Dean Buckeridge of **3 Architecture**, and he worked closely with the Guillemot’s to develop a concept to suit their lifestyle. “I had worked with Mike and Barb before, on their previous house in the Brancott Valley,” says Dean. This former home had a strong Mediterranean influence, and although they sought a far more modern design with this new dwelling, they liked the Italian inspired theme. “As the project commenced, we found ourselves adding in more and more of the Mediterranean flavour of the previous house. The entry gained a portico, the gallery became a dimly lit tunnel more reminiscent of an underground wine cellar, with a bell tower at the end to bring light down the hallway,” comments Dean. And Barb and Mike are very content with the finished house, in part because of Dean’s dedicated approach. His intent to match their home to them was never failing.





“Each client and each site is unique”, says Dean. “My role as designer is to get an understanding of how my clients like to live, what is important to them, and what makes a house a home for them, so I can see the project through their eyes. In addition to this, I consider the local environment, to ensure that the design is appropriate for its setting, and to consider how it will fit into the world 20, 30, 50 years from now.”

The overall design of the house, as well as all the features incorporated inside, have blended well to not only the environment, but to Mike and Barb’s style. And finding a fit with the homeowners is ultimately what it’s all about. “It works for them and it feels like the home they wanted,” says Dean. “It gets great sun, is very energy efficient and has fantastic views.” It also allows them to enjoy the hot Marlborough sun, with superb exterior living options. All of the bedrooms and living areas have access to the terrace, which runs the full length of the North side of the house. This terrace is partly roofed, to provide an undercover, alfresco entertaining area. The exterior space and the surrounding 3.5 acres have been planned out by **Islington Gardens**, to make the outlook and surrounds even more attractive. Most importantly the

garden specialists made recommendations as to the most suitable plants, to complement the home and the views, and to survive the usually drought-like conditions of the region. “We use hardy New Zealand native plants that can survive the windswept, dry location,” says Kathy Higgins, of Islington Gardens. “We use many modern natives for intense foliage and colour.” To tie in with the home, a Corokia “frosted chocolate” coloured hedge was planted.

Rather than just name potential specimens, Islington Gardens prefer to work on a visual basis. As growers of plants, with a dedicated garden centre, they can “show” suggested plant combinations, so homeowners can make an informed, visual decision.

To work with the architects’ design and the surrounding environment, the house was constructed using a light timber frame, in conjunction with an insulating plaster system. The reason for this was because the product was flexible enough to form the textures and shape required. From **Celcrete Nelson Marlborough Ltd**, the plaster system chosen is extremely stable and cost effective, and Barb and Mike were able to select the texture they wanted, once the system was ready for a final plaster coat. The exterior was then painted to Resene colour Akaroa.

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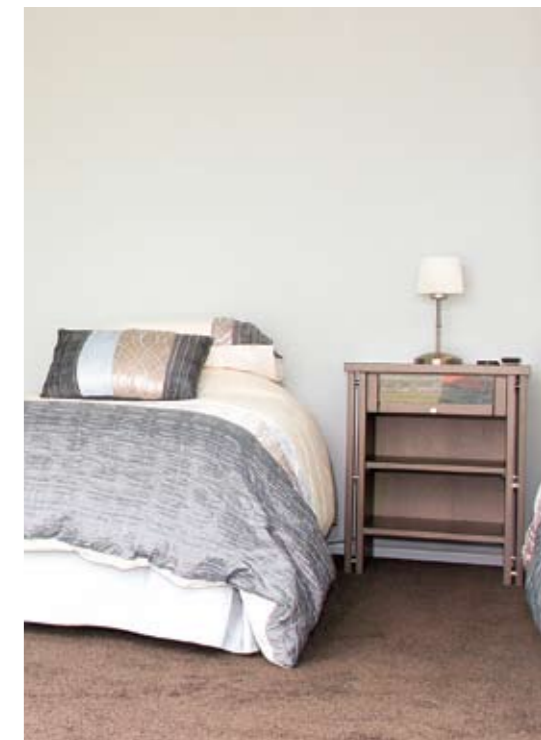


What a backdrop: The Guillemot home is surrounded by the Vernon Ranges.



“As the project commenced, we found ourselves adding in more and more of the Mediterranean flavour of the previous house.”

With style and setting combined the Guillemots and their family are sure to enjoy this home for years to come.



Celcrete also completed all the interior plastering and painting required in the hallway, in addition to creating the fire surrounds. To give the hall an authentic look, polystyrene was formed in a curved shape, and specially made to suit.

Once the hallway was finished, Mike made contact with **Ray G Decorators Ltd**, to paint the remainder of the interior. To get the best possible finish, Ray sprayed the first coat of paint, followed by a process of back-rolling, to add texture to the walls. Resene paint was used exclusively throughout the house, simply because it is unerringly reliable and such good quality. In the master wing, colour Linen was chosen, with Mildstone in the office and variations of Tea in the living areas. Each colour ties in well, essentially from the same palette, with a splash of colour chosen for the guest bedrooms, named Coastal Blue.

As with all the companies chosen to contribute to the project, Ray G Decorating Ltd are well established in the region, and this company in particular has the added backing of the Master Painters Association for the Guillemot's future piece of mind.

For the home's Mediterranean inspired design to succeed, indoor/outdoor flow was vital and so Dean designed openings to suit. After looking at all the options available, Barb and Mike turned to **Blenheim Building Centre (ITM)** for the Nu-look range of windows and doors. Selecting the 35mm series, the Guillemot's are please with the durable aluminium joinery, which was powder-coated to universal colour Canvas. Sliding doors offer an impressive visual standard, and ensure a virtually unimpeded outlook over the surrounding hills.

The Nu-look brand of windows and doors was not just about looking good for the Guillemot's, as builder Mike

only likes tried and true products. This joinery features advanced technology, meaning the likelihood of weather related building problems occurring within the window and door joinery is virtually eliminated.

In Marlborough, sun is a constant, and with such a large expanse of glass, the house is well heated by natural light. But the homeowners wanted to go that step further, and decided to install solar panels. The panels, supplied and fitted by **Marlborough Plumbing & Heating Ltd**, are completely versatile and configured to suit individual roof designs; in this case, to match the low profile style. The Thermocell solar system has proven to be very popular, and the Guillemot's were happy to conserve energy. The panels heat the hot water for the kitchen and the master ensuite, while gas heats the other two bedrooms and laundry area. Water is also precious in this region, and so all water for the house is harvested from rain, with Barb & Mike counting about 50,000 litres in storage at present.

Aside from aesthetic and energy saving desires, the Guillemot's had specific needs inside, most importantly in the bedroom department. With two daughters, who live in Christchurch and each with a young family, they wanted space to make them feel welcome. So Dean devised a clever design. Each daughter has two bedrooms, with a bathroom in between, meaning they each have ample private space. It also means Barb and Mike get to see their daughters and their grandchildren every school holidays, and sometimes in between.

“The house had to work for their lifestyle,” says Dean, “which ranges from living as a couple to having large numbers of family to stay. So they had to be able to open it up for large numbers of people and close it down to provide



a comfortable space for two.” The house also needed to have a functional kitchen to accommodate for these joint needs, and so the Guillemot’s selected a specialist designer for the task. Vicki, of **Vicki Andrews Design**, sought to create an attractive yet workable kitchen space that Barb could enjoy cooking in. “It’s not just aesthetically stunning,” comments Vicki. “The kitchen was designed for practical useability with the use of soft closing drawer and door systems, bottle, knife, detergent storage, large bins for recycling and waste, drawers for crockery, dishes and pots” comments Vicki. “Cooking appliances incorporated include gas hobs with a hidden extractor, a warming drawer, coffee machine and an ice maker.”

A timber veneer was selected for the cupboard doors in Crown Cut Sapele with a horizontal grain, off set by black plinth detailing. The benchtop is Kymira in a custom-made colour, with an under-mounted sink bowl in the centre island. The pantry features a “prep sink”, ideal for messy jobs when entertaining.

The kitchen itself was manufactured by **Ruby Bay Joinery Ltd**, who worked with close attention to Vicki’s design. For added luxury, Blum hinges were installed to make the doors shut effortlessly, alongside Tandem box runners for the drawers. For continuity throughout the home, the same talented company was invited to create the commanding curved Jarrah entrance doors, and the office joinery as specified by architectural designer Dean.

Ruby Bay Joinery work in a niche market, specialising in wooden exterior joinery for character and architecturally designed houses. They also focus on, and have done for thirteen years, the manufacture of all types of wooden interior joinery.

The kitchen, like the rest of the house, was designed to accommodate family use. With its open plan style it is great for entertaining.

As a nice simple way to finish off the interior, and to not detract from the many stylised fittings, Barb and Mike decided on low profile window coverings. From **The Furnishing Centre Ltd**, Woodmate Venetian blinds feature in all of the bathrooms, with sheer curtains by Textilia Ltd in the bedrooms. The fabric selected is made from a fine, delicate material, resulting in a light, floaty look.

Sandi Charles, manager of The Furnishing Centre, provided the Guillemot’s with a full consultation service, and was able to recommend the correct fabrics and materials for the house. For instance, the blinds used in the bathrooms were ultimately installed because they allowed for light control and privacy, without completely eliminating the light flow. Their polymer composition also made them ideally suited for a wet area.

It is rare to hear of a problem free, enjoyable design-build process from start to finish, even for a builder’s own home, so what was the secret for the Guillemot’s? Aside from great people working on the project, and a real meeting of the minds between everyone involved, Dean thinks he has the answer. “Many bottles of extraordinarily good wine were sacrificed during our discussions, and design and development stages and decisions made were often surprisingly quite useful!” Enough said. ■