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indulge

Bay of Plenty Times

feature home

local homes and local builders - Ultimate Homes

By Monique Balvert-O'Connor
Photos by Media Masters
Photo & Video

Mel and Haden Bedggood could be forgiven for occasionally pulling up in the wrong driveway at home time.

That's because home used to be right nextdoor.

Some good things just don't need to change much – like the locality of home, and the selection of a home building company.

In June last year, Mel and Haden and children moved into their new home, built by Ultimate Homes, on Lakes Boulevard in Tauranga. They'd previously lived next door in what was also a new build, constructed by Ultimate Homes.

House number one was built to suit babies (Cian and Quinn) and a teenager (Michelle). The separate wing that was Michelle's domain wasn't really used once Michelle left home, Mel tells.

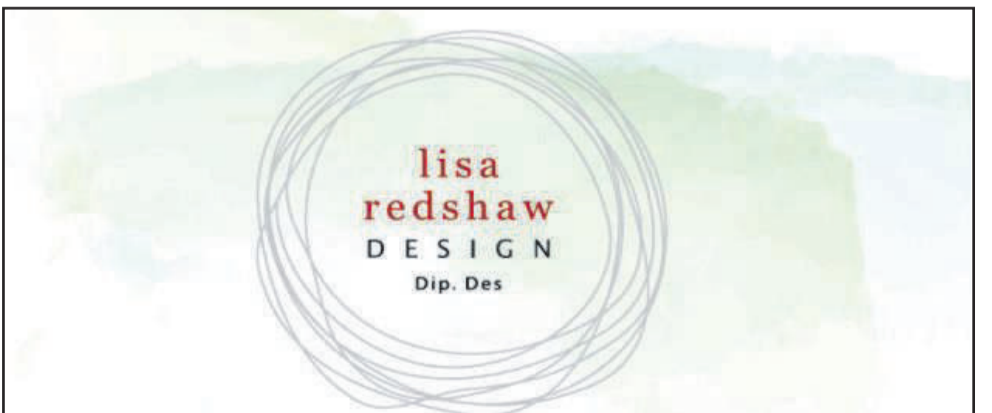
"Our family dynamics had changed. Now we have two young children aged



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five and three at home and no teenager permanently at home.”

The other main change was that Mel and Haden wanted to reduce maintenance requirements. At house number one, mowing the lawns and trimming the hedges was a two-hour mission. It’s a 20-minute job at house number two.

“Haden and I both work so we didn’t want to have to spend too much time on keeping the house and property beautiful. We’re on a smaller site now (789m2) but we back on to a reserve, so the reduced site size is of no-consequence in terms of play area,” Mel explains.

Acquiring their current site required patience... and pouncing. Mel tells how she kept an eye on the section next door and “pounced” when the timing was right. Site sorted and it was time to design and build.

Selecting a building company was a lot easier second time around. They had already done their homework – well and truly. When initially looking for builders, they interviewed seven companies.

“We don’t do things by halves,” Mel tells. “We wanted a top-quality builder, and we wanted value for money. That balance was important to us, and we found it with Ultimate Homes.

“We just have so many good things to say about this company and its loyal, top quality tradesmen. We got perfection. So, when it came time to build again, there

was just no question. We didn’t consider anyone else.”

Spanning 246 square metres, their new home features double garaging, four bedrooms, bathroom, en suite, separate laundry, media room, and an open-plan kitchen, dining and living room that feeds out to an undercover, outdoor seating

area. The wings of the house protect this large, decked area from prevailing winds. There’s no difficulty accessing this outdoor area, with the living room, media room, and master bedroom all opening out on to it. Clever design has resulted in the inclusion of a triple-paned sliding door in the hallway opposite the children’s rooms. This is great for sun and airflow into those slumber



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Top tips when choosing a builder

Choose a builder you can rely on.

At Ultimate Homes we take great pride that so much of our work comes from referrals. What sets owners Greg & Vicki Leopold apart from others is the direct relationship they have with their clients, from the initial planning until the house is finished. They are proud to have over 15 years of glowing local testimonials to share with you, and, even more rewarding, they enjoy doing repeat builds for many of their clients. This is confirmation that the saying tried and true meaning "tested and proven to be reliable" is an appropriate definition of this locally owned company.



Vicki + Greg Leopold

Choose a builder who offers a free on site visit with planning session.

Right from the start you work with company owner Greg Leopold. He consults on site visits even before you purchase your section. If you have secured a site, Greg works with you and our designer to discuss design ideas, taking into account building covenants, land contours and the investment you intend on spending.

Choose a builder who provides a comprehensive quote.

Once we have completed a concept drawing for you we complete and present a comprehensive quote. You will know exactly what will be included when you move to the next step of a Master Builder Building contract. This includes Vicki joining you for a visit to our Kitchen & Bathroom suppliers to finalise selections and details.

Choose a builder who gives you a good guarantee.

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David Bagley

Visit our Show Home to see the exceptional finish you can expect.

To see the quality finish your new home will have we encourage you to visit our stunning Show Homes. They show the attention to detail you come to expect with Ultimate Homes. David Bagley our Sales/Home & Land Specialist can show you through and arrange your first Site Meeting with Greg.

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“Meeting with Ultimate Homes on our new section was an exciting gathering. The passion, ideas and determination to achieve the level of creativity that I wanted was embraced and developed.

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Su + Simon Mobley 2014



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zones, as well as easy access to the deck and beyond that the media room and main living area.

Smart design was also at play with the choice and positioning of the media room's doors. Here, barn doors meet at right angles, and when open increase the spaciousness and enhance the sense of flow from the home's entrance into the main living hub.

This main living area features polished concrete floors and a tongue-and-groove cathedral ceiling, with the same vaulted aspect continued to the outside portico. It's not only an attractive aesthetic; it adds to the seamless transition from indoor to outdoor living in this space. The high ceiling also enabled Mel and Haden to have fun with lighting in this part of their home. The nickel lights over the kitchen island and the living room coffee table were imported from the USA.

While house number one was clad in linear board painted a moody grey; house number two is white-painted bagged brick, with a board and batten chimney feature. However, Mel and Haden loved the Dulux Remarkables exterior paint colour of the first house so much that they've brought it with them – it's now an interior wall colour, adding a snug, cave-like aspect to their new home's media room.

White (Resene's Barely There) is the favoured paint colour in this home, yet Mel and Haden have used various means to inject wow on their walls, with the media room being but one example. The spare bedroom (Michelle's space

when she's home) includes a floral wallpaper feature wall in rich hues. The hallway, from which all the bedrooms feed, features white tongue-and-groove wainscoting with the wall above painted a soft grey (Dulux Tirau). Meanwhile, in the master-bedroom the bedhead wall is an immediate attention-grabber. Here, these homemakers decided upon a tongue-and-groove wall painted in a deep turquoise (Dulux Browns Bay). It's been an inexpensive way to create impact, they say. The polished bronze bedside lights on this dynamic wall are a Mel favourite (if there's ever a house number three, it will include the same lights).

Mel's quick to point out that the interior detailing hasn't been solely her domain. Haden has been instrumental in decision making too.

"Haden loves a good project. He is very particular and his strength is getting top of the range, top quality items. He will search high and low for the right thing to suit our vision. That's his superpower.

"He found the rustic dining room table, the Victoria & Albert bath and the champagne tapware. Most of it we do together – it's like our hobby – but fittings and fixtures are his domain; I'm more into the additional interiors – dressing rooms," Mel says, adding that she loves cushions and how simple it is to swap them out to create a different look.

She says Ultimate Homes was very accommodating of Haden's particulars around fittings and fixtures.



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“They are outcome focused rather than going with what’s easiest for them. Nothing was a problem.”

Given all the attention to detail it’s not surprising that Mel and Haden are totally satisfied with many aspects of their home.

“Haden loves the lights, the marble and herring bone inclusions in the bathrooms and kitchen, and the layout of the house. We both really like the ceilings in the main living area,” Mel says.

They both also enthuse over the kitchen.

“Kitchens are meant to be the hub of the home. This kitchen definitely is and it’s a favoured, beautiful space that catches the sun first thing in the morning. It’s an uber practical, big kitchen that just flows,” Mel says.

She loves how the board and batten chimney surround is brought into this space, housing the extraction fan above the double Smeg oven. And she enjoys the informal dining offered by the large farmhouse-style kitchen island with its marble top. The marbled splashback is tiled in a herringbone fashion to replicate the bathrooms.

“If we do ever build again, I would replicate the kitchen for sure,” Mel states.

Home number three would involve the same building company, but not the same locality.

“We love this house. If we were to stay enjoying suburban life, then we are here for good. We would only change if we wanted a different lifestyle. Rural is on our mind.”



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