

# GRAND DESIGNS

## NEW ZEALAND

**LAUNCH ISSUE**  
INSIDE GRAND DESIGNS SERIES 1 FEATURE HOUSE PLUS DREAM HOMES TO INSPIRE

**40**  
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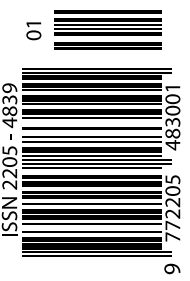
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## FROM CHRIS MOLLER

**M**any of us have grown to love Kevin McCloud's entertaining style, following the joys and frustrations of people trying to realise their dream home. But how will the kiwi approach be different? For me, *Grand Designs New Zealand* is a fantastic opportunity to showcase stories from all over the country, from Pakiri in the north to the Catlins in the deep south — including houses made with straw and recycled rubbish. There's even one that looks like a stealth bomber and another that hangs off a cliff.

In the first few episodes, the houses are all so incredibly different, using unique construction materials and techniques from in-situ concrete and waste materials (think car tyres and recycled bottles) to prefabricated high-performance, structurally insulated panels. But what's clear is tough building regulations have not limited the creativity of design, construction or material choices. One approach certainly does not suit all.

When I think of the issues confronting New Zealanders right now, the challenges of the Christchurch rebuild, the urban pressures of Auckland's expanding population, the serious lack of affordable housing and the new earthquake codes are just some that come to mind. Then there's global warming, rising sea levels and flood and storm damage, which appears to be on the rise. This is our new 21st-century



reality, so I'm interested to see how people are being resourceful, creative and clever. How are they responding to their own local challenges? And have they discovered secrets that might benefit the rest of us?

If there is one central question I'm intrigued by, it would be, "How can we do more with much less?" One of the first builds in the series tackles this question directly. Scott Laurie's new home in Pakiri is a surprisingly small, sculptural gem set in a big, beautiful landscape. Scottie was so focused on quality, and he knew he needed an exceptionally good team comprising a great architect, excellent builder, supportive banker and committed subcontractors to realise his dream. But it was his open

trust, generous spirit and big ambition that galvanised them all to go the extra mile to realise his tiny and very clever grand design.

I'm looking forward to bringing you New Zealand's very own *Grand Designs*. With such diverse and thought-provoking houses coming to the fore, there will be plenty to report on that will perhaps even inspire you to think far, far out of the square when it comes to building your own home.

CHRIS MOLLER  
EDITOR-AT-LARGE