



New Zealand Champions!

Supreme Taranaki Builder takes out National Title

TERRY CLEGG BUILDERS

Winner of the 2013 NZ Master Builders House of the Year (\$350,000 - \$450,000 category)

Words Irena Brooks

Photo Roger Richardson

After four attempts Terry Clegg is a national champion.

Terry Clegg Builders had made it to the NZ Master Builders House of the Year final four times before, but in Nov 2013, the New Plymouth builder won the PlaceMakers New Homes \$350,000 to \$450,000 category at the 2013 Registered Master Builders House of the Year.

"It was great to finally win it," Mr Clegg said.

The national award capped off a hugely successful year for Terry Clegg Builders, who were easily the most awarded building company in Taranaki for 2013.

The architecturally designed two-bedroom, two-bathroom home has now racked up a total of eight awards, with judges commending the builder's workmanship and attention to detail as second to none.

For Terry, and his wife Mary-Lu, that comment was confirmation of the work they have put into their building company since starting up in Taranaki sixteen years ago.

"The house was done within a reasonable budget too," says Terry Clegg, yet the quality of the build was such that it won Taranaki's Supreme Award against far bigger budget homes - including one that cost over \$1 million.

"It wasn't a really high priced home. It proves you don't have to be just at the high end to get quality."

Terry still does a personal walk-through every home he and his team build, taking the time to check off every aspect of the home before handing it over to the owners.

"It's my name over the door."

It's that attention to detail he believes has helped set his business apart from others and raise their performance to be among the best in New Zealand.

"We build each house as if it was our own. This is a major part of our business and we expect no less than a high standard of workmanship."

He has also built up a trusted group of contracting businesses who he regularly uses for his builds.

"You quickly learn which contractors have the same standards as you, who believe in doing a quality job, are reliable, and deliver value for money."

Another key point to the success of the business, is to not let the business get too big.

"We currently have two gangs and we'll be taking on a third gang soon, but we'll never do more than four gangs or you're in danger of compromising your quality. It's all about having a happy client at the end of the day, and being proud of what you've built."

Communication is another key factor and Terry's clients are either dealing directly with him, or their project manager Robin, so they can get answers to their questions straight away.

"Anything specific about the project, we'll know about it. We're not salespeople, we're builders."

Over the past year, they have also built up a project management programme, linking all conversations and information about a build, so the data can be accessed by mobile app and computer at any time. That instant access, coupled with a streamlined system that compartmentalises each project, saves time and money, as well as enhancing communication between the client and builder.



L to R: Vaughan Fever, Morgan Win, Terry Clegg, Georgia Clegg, Mary-Lu Clegg, Daniel Lawn, Robin Kerr, Eammon O' Carroll

Terry can also help people design their new home, sometimes directly and other times, by helping a client choose an architect or designer.

"I like to get on board as soon as possible, right from choosing the plot, and where the house should ideally sit in the site," says terry.

"People will have ideas about what they want and we embrace that and will throw in a few ideas of our own that we may have noticed works well on other builds."

If you already have your plans, Terry is happy to offer a price for the build.

"We have worked with many designers and architects over the years and are happy to work with you to achieve your dream home. We are confident that if a client comes to us to price a build, we'll be competitive."

"There is a misconception that smaller building companies don't have the same buying power as larger companies. This is untrue. We keep a careful eye on our suppliers and subcontractors and secure fixed pricing at a competitive rate. We also keep the business overheads to a minimum."

Their flexibility sees Terry Clegg Builders doing homes from million dollar builds to granny flats. They are not limited to any fixed plans or packages. Every job they undertake offers a 10 year Master Build Guarantee.

Since 2002 the company has been involved with the Registered Master Builders House of the Year Competition and has won numerous awards, including three Supreme Awards, which are in recognition of excellence in workmanship, creativity and innovation for homes built.

"We pride ourselves on a personal approach, competitive, fixed pricing and quality finishing," says Terry Clegg. "This house really embodies everything we stand for." ••

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Dressed to Impress

If this home was a suit it would be a tuxedo holding a glass of champagne. It is easy to see why the judges were captivated with the Terry Clegg built home that took out the National House of the Year title (\$350,000 - \$450,000 category) for 2013.

Words Shelley Landon-Lane

The two-bedroom two-bathroom minimalist home won the Supreme Taranaki 2013 Registered Master Builders House of the Year award in August, with the points it amassed earning it entry to the national awards.

Designed by Chris Holyoake and built by Terry Clegg Builders, this modest home has now racked up a total of eight awards including a Gold Award, where a home needs to score 90% or more of the points available. In addition, it won its category, the Heart of the Home kitchen award, a Plumbing Award for the bathroom, People's Choice winner and National Gold Reserve (Top 100). It goes to show it doesn't have to be the most expensive home to win Supreme Status.

"The house was done within a reasonable budget," says Terry Clegg. It wasn't a really high priced home. It proves you don't have to be just at the high end to get quality.

Technically challenging, the home has no architraves, skirting boards or scotia, resulting in sleek lines that wowed the judges.

"Expert delivery using a variety of materials including timber, concrete and aluminium cladding had created an immaculately presented home. The builder's workmanship and attention

to detail was second to none," read the judge's citation.

"Custom-made fittings and joinery finished in a high gloss white lacquer throughout the home are exceptional. Boasting a cleverly located roof skylight over the living room and a dining section of the kitchen joinery supported by a single spine of laminated glass, the builder's workmanship is outstanding."

They were also impressed with how the new home has been cleverly integrated with an existing five metre tall shed.

House owner, Peter Baylis, chose Terry Clegg Builders because he wanted to have a lot of input.

"From day one, Terry gave me this flexibility, complemented by his craftsmanship, which allowed me to showcase my own ideas and flair. He took all my dreams and requests and made them a reality. I had a big list of wants and Terry delivered on them all."

Peter is director of Vogue Kitchens and acknowledges his perfectionist personality and immaculate attention to detail. is another key reason he chose Terry Clegg to build his 'Man Cave,' as he refers to it. He knew from the many builds they have done together, that Terry had similar standards. His new home has become

his sanctuary, and he is thrilled with the result.

"Whether I'm gone three days or three weeks I know when I return that everything will be exactly the same," he says.

The most striking feature of the house exterior, is the front deck, which appears to just hang above the driveway.

"It has been cantilevered to create that impression," says Terry. "Two massive steel beams actually support it, and they extend two-thirds of the way into the house structure."

The deck has been framed in aluminium cladding which hides all the fittings and structural elements. In fact the entire frontage has been designed to hide the roof and building beyond, giving the exterior of the property the same sleek lines of the interior.

Entry to the house is through the commanding white powder coated aluminium 3.6 m high front door. This gleaming purpose-designed door aligns with the height of the roller door of the hallowed shed, which now houses Pete's boat. It works well amid the front façade which is clad in vertical cedar boards stained black. It is soon evident that Peter's love of the crisp black and white colour



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combination appears everywhere.

From the giant door, that makes you feel like 'Alice in Wonderland,' wide stairs ascend to the single living level. Massively cushy underfoot the treads are carpeted in a deep charcoal which features throughout the home and is made from recycled coke bottles. Extra thick underlay adds to the luxuriousness. The risers light up and the staircase appears to float between two walls. A striking black and white abstract painting hangs at the top of the landing in perfect proportion. Above this area a picture window frames a natural work of art – Mt Egmont/Taranaki.

There is an immediate restfulness in the 110m2 open plan home which

seems larger due to the elegance and sophistication of the décor, window placement and lack of architraves, scotia and skirting's minimising unnecessary lines. Peter has padded the sides of his vacuum cleaner head so there is no fear of scratching the beautifully finished walls.

In the living area the wonderful smell of leather emanates from the two manly-looking black sofas complete with bold white stitching. Accompanied by a simple white Melteca coffee table with chrome-like legs and again the floating aspect is there. It is purposely low in height so it can also be used as a foot rest, shoes off of course! To complete the living area a mustard colour accent

is provided by two oval Egg chairs on chrome legs.

The whole upper interior walls and ceilings are white contrasting sharply with the lush dark flooring. Shiny white ceramic tiles feature underfoot in the kitchen. Aluminium joinery is somewhere between black and white in Silver Pearl and seemingly disappears. Natural light filters through the skylight window as well as through large glazed stacker doors that open up one whole end of the living room onto that amazing deck.

This all-weather outdoor living space with wooden table and chairs is a particularly enjoyable space for Peter to spend time with friends. Mechanical louvres overhead adjust to

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suit the weather and he mentions that watching live cricket with mates and a few Coronas is equally as good as playing a music DVD during a dinner party.

This main deck is actually one of three. There is a deck off the second bedroom with a lovely view of the mountain, and another deck utilising what would have otherwise been wasted space, turned into a long and sunny spot for the clothesline.

Even though he has been designing kitchens for over 30 years, Peter has not gone overboard with his mainly white kitchen design. It's a pared back simple galley-style with a Corian top island centre stage. Everything is hidden behind white lacquered

cupboards. Some doors slot back and disappear altogether. A dark walnut veneer provides a contrasting element. Other cabinetry opens magically at the touch of a finger or the nudge of knee and self-closing drawers are another feature.

Two Miele ovens are wall-set, one a conventional, the other a steam oven. Peter prefers to do all his cooking in the steam oven neglecting to use the ceramic top stove in the Corian island. He explains how vegetables can be cut up and put on a steel tray and cooked in minutes. Nutrients are retained better unlike boiling the life out of them! A bold stainless Franke tap is the only bling on the counter. In the making is a black and white New

York skyline scene that will be the splash back and can be backlit to glow at night. More of this type of digital picture effect is trending.

The winning bathrooms are almost identical in design and materials, one as an ensuite and the other off the hallway near the guest bedroom. Both have walls and floor tiling made from reconstituted marble chips glued with resin. Coloured a warm dark brown with lighter flecks its shiny surface looks opulent.

Also worth mentioning is the fact there is no obvious drainage hole in either shower. The floor subtly slopes to one wall and the water simply runs off this edge and disappears! The drain itself is well hidden, and, like the



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for their recent New Zealand House of the Year win**

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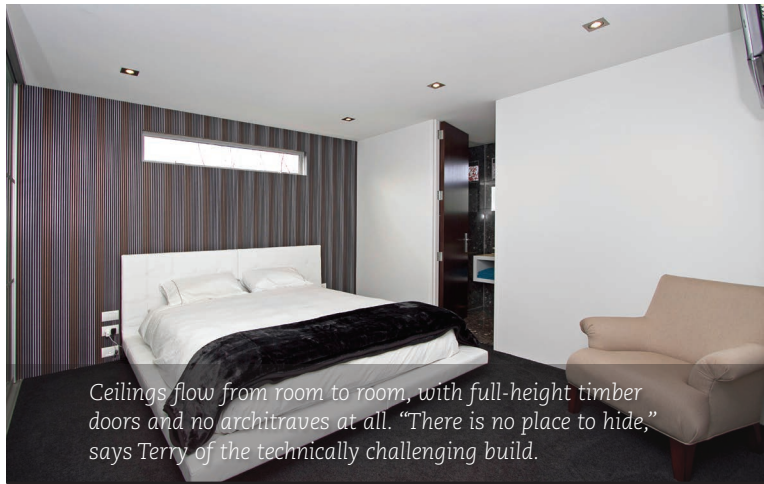
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Ceilings flow from room to room, with full-height timber doors and no architraves at all. "There is no place to hide," says Terry of the technically challenging build.



rest of the house, the clean lines give a freshness and unfussiness to the finished form.

A charming aspect is the six inset LED lights glittering like diamonds in the floor, even in the shower, protected by a waterproof membrane. Peter is proud of the fact these lights only cost \$120 yet produce a gorgeous effect.

In fact the lighting throughout is carefully considered and creates a variety of moods with subtle glows in the kitchen, living room, bathrooms and bedrooms.

Interesting to note there is no heating, saving potentially tens of thousands of dollars in energy bills. Double glazing and insulation in all

external walls as well as internal is enough to retain the sun's energy.

The master bedroom is incredibly minimalistic with just the bed in it, with its white studded leather headboard set against a feature wall covered in embossed light and dark striped wallpaper. One whole wall is dedicated to opaque glass sliding doors that reveal drawers, shelving and racks for clothing and shoes.

As for the laundry, if you were a guest in the home, it would take you quite some time to find it! Discreetly tucked away behind two doors the same colour as the wall, it is perfectly serviceable and easily screened away when the washing is done.

Peter appreciates the privacy and

security of his new home, and the quality of workmanship from all involved.

"The devil is in the details," he quips. "All of our sub-contractors put in a tremendous effort, as they always do, to enable this house to win all the awards that it has," says Terry. "Without those dedicated subbies behind the scenes, it wouldn't have been achievable.

"Winning that national award was definitely our highlight for 2013 and was the culmination of a really rewarding project. We pride ourselves on a personal approach, competitive fixed pricing and quality finishing. This house really embodies everything we stand for." ••

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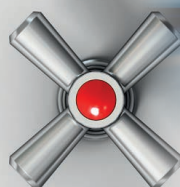
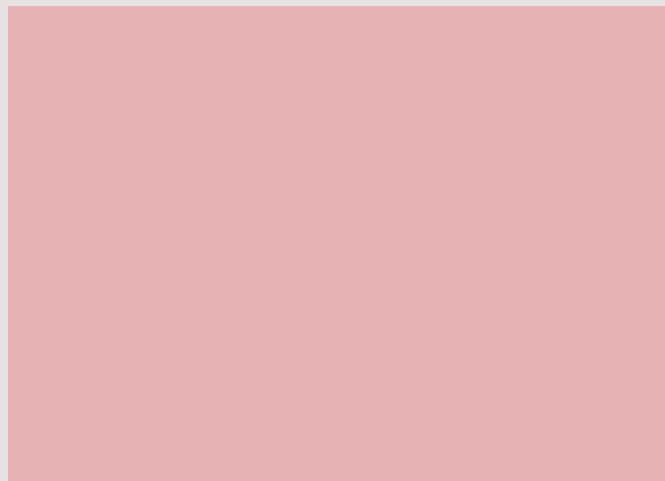
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