



# WHITE ON WHITE

A large, contemporary family home makes a bold statement within a new Hamilton subdivision.

Words **Soraya Nicholas** Photography **Thomas Law**



FOR YEARS GRANT CHAPMAN HAD biked past a stunning parcel of semi-rural land and admired its location. When it was subdivided into large residential sections, he was serious about owning one of the sites. The family went ahead and purchased a section, and spent four years planning their dream home.

“This place is completely different to our last house, but exactly what we’d always hoped for,” says Jacqui. “We previously owned an ex-state house that had been extensively renovated.” The style inside was similar to that of their new home, but living in a modern character house is nothing compared to brand new!

The first step in creating their new abode was consulting with friend and architectural designer Noel Jessop, of **Noel Jessop Architecture**. They were quite happy for Noel to take the lead on the design, giving him only a few main requirements, such as living and bedroom needs. Grant and Jacqui also expressed their desire to have a

very neutral, white home. During the final stages of design there was one last minute change though. “I became pregnant with Geordie (now 5 years old) so we needed another bedroom!” says Jacqui with a laugh. The house is also home to daughters Jesse (9) and Maddi (7).

“Part of the brief was for a ‘white on white’ home,” comments Noel, “and to maximise the views out to the river below. We took the ‘white on white’ and ran with it, creating a home that stands out from its neighbours.” Another important part of the design was taking the contours of the site into consideration. “The house sits on top of a hill, looking out to the west, and in turn gets hit by the prevailing wind. This is part of the ‘one room wide’ design, providing a home that could maximise views but also provide a protected area for family living.”

To execute the design of the home, the Chapmans turned to **Turton Builders**, who had been personally recommended to them. “We knew they often built larger homes,” comments



Resene colour Sea Fog is the perfect shade of white for the exterior. Inside, Resene Alabaster was the colour of choice.

Grant, “and their work appealed to us.” Bruce Turton was thrilled to be part of the project, and worked alongside Noel to ensure the design was completed to perfection. He describes the home as “a modern, minimal design,” with contemporary materials and building practices used to create the desired look. Large expanses of glass were paired with a solid plaster exterior, and

<b>THE SPECS</b>	Hamilton 431 Sq m	3	5+ office	3
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## OUR PLACE with Grant & Jacqui Chapman

### What do friends and family love most about your home?

The space. We had lots of family here for Easter one year, and even with everyone in the kitchen/living area there was more than enough space. The pool has also been a big hit!

### Favourite room?

The kitchen/family area is our favourite spot on a day-to-day basis, but the lounge is gorgeous with the fire going and a movie playing.

### Favourite buy?

Grant: The projector screen! Plus Jacqui's paintings are great.

### What would you change?

Jacqui: I would have self-cleaning glass! Grant: It would be great to have a larger rumpus/games room for the kids.

### What advice would you give to others preparing to build?

Your relationship with your architect/designer is most important, as they are such a driver for the entire project. And don't get too hung up on all the little details along the way.

a Butanol roof was chosen, to form the "very flat" profile. Inside, steel portals were placed for support in the kitchen/family area, to combat the absence of internal walls.

The contemporary, solid plaster exterior of the house was formed by O'Hara Plasterers. A Riblath solid plaster with a cavity system was used, giving the home the requisite solid appearance as well as good impact resistance. O'Hara Plasterers used a sand, cement and lime mix of plaster to create the seamless effect of the exterior, which is described as a sponge finish.

When it came to the interior of the home, the focus was on large living spaces and luxury amenities. "It is such a fantastic home to live in," says

**TOP** The pantry is the only splash of colour in the kitchen, which follows the 'white on white' theme of the entire home. Resene Bokara Grey was chosen.

Jacqui. "All the windows mean the house is always full of sun, and the sliding doors that open right back make the house feel even larger than it is in summer." The placement of the kitchen was also important. "With the kitchen being central, Jacqui can see the kids in the outdoor areas and kids room, although they are separated away from the kitchen and family area," comments Noel. Maintaining the white on white theme set by the exterior was another main interior feature. Resene Alabaster was selected by the Chapmans, with a hint of colour

chosen for the pantry-wall, in Resene Bokara Grey. "We prefer to introduce colour through furnishings and accessories," says Jacqui.

To make the kitchen that the Chapmans describe as "the centre of the home", they were pointed in the direction of Designer Cabinets 1996 Ltd. They manufactured all of the kitchen cabinetry, as designed by Noel, as well as the custom-made vanities for each bathroom. As specialists in the creation of unique kitchen designs, they had the experience and craftsmanship to complete the luxury kitchen for this home. Owner of the company, Robin Caudwell, particularly enjoys the "sophisticated design process" of tailor-made kitchen creations.

**Douch Plumbing & Heating Ltd** joined the taskforce to complete the

**ABOVE RIGHT** Jesse, Maddi & Geordie are very proud of their new house, but the recently installed swimming pool is their absolute favourite feature of the property.

kitchen and bathrooms. They provided a full pipe-out package, as well as designing and installing the entire plumbing and drainage system for the home. The highest quality fittings were selected for all the wet areas, and were supplied by the plumbing company. In addition to the general plumbing, a Sunflow Floor heating system was installed. This water-fed system is a very economical form of heating, and can be operated from a variety of sources, including gas, diesel and electricity. Regarded as craftsman plumbers, Douch Plumbing & Heating are also gas-fitting specialists.

The three Chapman children love their new home, and are "always asking to have friends over after school". But although their own bedrooms and huge living areas to play in were the biggest drawcard at the start, it was the installation of a swimming pool last year that has stayed their favourite inclusion. Each and every day in summer they are in the pool, which was manufactured and installed by Pool Builders Waikato. The large swimming pool is made from concrete, described as a Quantam style, and was chosen for its long lasting and durable construction. A 'wet edge' was designed for this pool on three sides, to create a full look at all times. This means that the water continually flows over the three edges into a balance tank, to maintain a constant water height. "The pool has been a real hit with the kids," says Grant. "When the pool was finished the kids wanted to get straight in, despite the cold end of winter weather, and they would literally spend one minute in then run in for a hot shower!"

There is nothing Jacqui and Grant can find fault with in their home, but one thing they can say is that they were fortunate to have such wonderful contractors working on their house. "There are things that we take for granted, or simply don't appreciate, on a daily basis, and it's when people come to visit and comment on certain aspects that we stand back and appreciate it all over again." ■

## DIRECTORY

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