



Opposite page: The large open plan kitchen and living featuring soaring timber sarked ceiling with exposed portal. Clockwise from top: House rules do apply... and this highlighted feature in the living area uses Resene Flashback; A cosy comfortable place to view the land; Behind the red door is a home with a definite 'wow' factor; The upstairs master bedroom, featuring dramatic ceiling lines; Noeline's house continues the trend of old world charm with raking sarked ceilings.

PARADISE PERFECTION IN PUNI

Behind a bright red door is a living environment with a definite 'wow' factor.

Megan Ashe reckons her new home, built on a four acre lifestyle block in Puni, 55km south of Auckland, is a bit like the Tardis in the Dr Who television series: strongly-built and unassuming on the outside, but once inside the 'magic' comes to the fore.

"People are amazed when they come through our bright red front door. They're impressed by the open plan living areas from the concrete floors to the high sarked ceilings. Most of all, they comment on how unique and individual the design is. The workmanship is stunning."

Megan, husband Gordon Brown, and their three children, Harry (19), Jack (15), and Molly (8), decided they wanted a lifestyle 'experience' involving the main house and a smaller one for her mother Noeline. The agreement was that it would be for keeps, and it would also be a project

by the current family for the generations to come.

In creating Sarnia Downs (named using the traditional name for Guernsey Island where Gordon's father was born), it was important that everyone had input into the design and was happy with the result.

"From our first meeting with Customkit we were hooked, by the people as much as by the product. The team were able to get a real good feel for what we wanted to create on our lifestyle block. We received site advice and everyone was patient and engaging. The site suggestions were important given that we were looking to build two dwellings.

"We all wanted the flexibility to create something that wasn't the standard, modern and 'me too' kind of structure. Instead we were looking for something that was rustic and in keeping with the rural environment."

"Clearly board and batten has that farm-style look that suited the property but also allowed us to create a wonderful environment within the way we wanted it. We didn't want to be dictated to by the housing company.

"One of the great things working with Customkit was the ability to have our say in everything. Their expertise in giving us the tips to make things happen in a cost effective and efficient way was invaluable."

One of the other benefits in working with Customkit, says Megan, was the ability to make the homes as sustainable as possible with solar power, eco-friendly septic tanks and wetbacks for hot water.

Customkit's design and sales consultant Julie Richardson-Smith says the house shows how many personal touches can be added to enhance the individuality and character of what is being built.

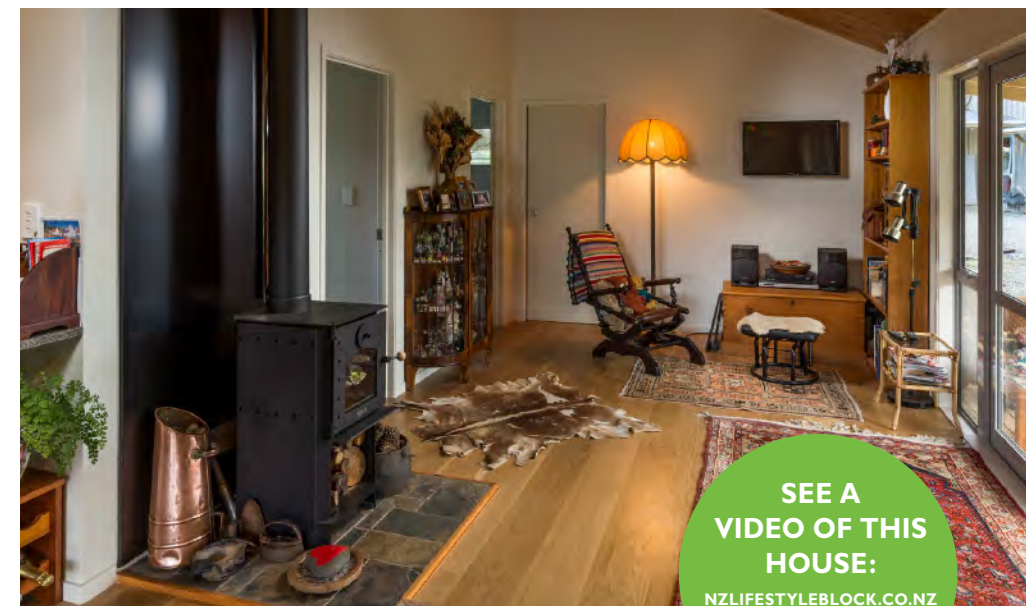
"We find that people who come to us like

to have a say in how their house will look inside and out and therefore want to know that they will be listened to throughout. Rather than ending up with some sort of 'me too' outcome, the Ashe-Brown family have a place they can call home because we went out of our way to capture their own tastes and spirit."

While the landscaping is still to be done, the family - which now includes Highland cattle, a kunekune pig, chickens, dogs and bees - are adamant that their home in Puni is a perfect paradise.

Products: **Paints:** Resene exterior Mondo. **interior:** Internal walls - Thorndon Cream; Internal doors - Double Thorndon Cream; Ceilings 1/8th Thorndon Cream; Master bedroom feature - Triple Thorndon Cream; Feature wall, lounge - Cab Sav; Feature wall, hall - Flashback; **Windows & doors:** VANTAGE Silver Pearl & Latitude entrance door - Mannex Cola Red. VANTAGE manufacturer Summit Aluminium. **Roof:** Colorsteel Endura Ironsand, corrugated profile supplied by Franklin Long Roofing. **Spouting:** Marley PVC Stormcloud rainwater system.

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