

# BARN STORMING

Meet the perfect way to 'kit out' your kitset and let the creative juices flow.



Go with the flow. Plenty of space outdoors for having fun.

THERE ARE ANY NUMBER of compelling reasons to build a barn-style home. They are open and spacious. A Customkit home/barn can truly reflect your unique taste, personality and lifestyle...not theirs. Unlike some other housing companies they offer the flexibility to decorate or finish the inside as you want.

For Annie and Mark Forrest nothing beats their Matakana Black Barn for allowing the freedom of expression. Especially for Annie, a floral designer and environment creator by trade, throwing off the shackles of constraints that some house plans lock you into is an essential part of enjoying her home.

"I like to do 'different' things. The bolder it is, the better. It's important to keep things fresh and moving with your designs – if you get stale it is time to move on or take a break. I love to keep re-inventing the wheel."

"In that sense our Customkit-designed Black Barn house is marvellous. You can use your own style and special things that you treasure. You don't have to be homogenised into a 'look' anyone can achieve. I mix old and new to create something that is unique and individual."

"The basic barn structure on the outside provides so much creative flexibility on the inside"

Making the decision to find an affordable place to live that was

still within commuting distance to Auckland prompted Mark and Annie to go North. They fell in love with the Black Barn and a week later bought the property.

## 'Go crazy, have fun'

The basic structure was already in place but there was the ability to expand and extend the house to allow new spaces and places to be developed.

"We converted the existing bedrooms into a living space. When we moved in we had just one huge open barn with a small lounge only. We built two bedrooms downstairs as well as a bathroom.



ABOVE, CLOCKWISE: A wonderful world of colour; Open and spacious kitchen area makes entertaining a breeze; The door is open by the Par 4; White walls provide a perfect backdrop for artistic expression.



BLACK BARN: LOUISE M PHOTOGRAPHY

Upstairs we put in a king-sized bed plus areas for storage. We sectioned off other rooms ending up with open plan living, dining and kitchen flowing off onto the courtyard which is great."

"The barn was already black which fits in so well in a rural environment. We painted the inside walls with a Resene white as this is the perfect backdrop for art. Little surprises of colour also delight the senses, such as the green feature wall in the bathroom, and the hallway chalked with welcoming messages on the walls (painted in Resene Blackboard Paint)."

"Overall I have accentuated that fact that the style of our home is a barn. It is playful and colourful and has lots of industrial vintage finds that we got from demolition yards. It has lovely polished concrete floors that give it a bit of an urban look. We've also integrated materials that enhance the barn look such as rough sawn timber. It is funky, really cosy and you don't feel like you're living in a barn at all."

As many Customkit customers have found, the flexibility and freedom to create individual and unique living spaces is a very clear benefit of their building approach. The sky is the limit in what can be achieved and the company is open 24 hours to ideas and areas of expression to make people's home/barns wonderful places to live.

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