

Homage to a craftsman

A chance discovery in a builder's yard has given architectural designer Brynn McCauley the perfect chance to mix his design talent with that of a notable Wellington architect from the 1950s. **Jill Wild** tells the story.

BRYNN McCauley has an eye for architectural design – he made it his profession – so when he was searching through a yard of relocatable houses, looking for a renovation opportunity, one structure took his eye.
 "I'd actually planned to build new. We bought the land in 2007 and then property prices plummeted and I thought it expedient to think laterally and abandon the idea of new.
 "The opportunity arose in the discovery of a 1950s weatherboard dwelling we found languishing in the mover's yard. Ironically, it was in the yard as a result of that same furtive property market."
 McCauley moved the house to his Waitare Beach site and began researching its history. He found it was designed in 1955 by Wellington architect Maurice Patience for a

family of five – ironically a private home built in the state housing estate in Silverstream.
 "Patience was an associate of The Group, architects who were seeking a language or style for the New Zealand home. These professionals were influential in forging the architecture and design trends that have stretched through to today. And The Group was interested in "housing for everyman", so it was interested in delivering good architecture to the lower socio-economic strata."
 The house had classic 50s design elements; a porch and wide, simple gable form, high glazing to capture the light, a new modernist style providing greater interior light, a move away from previous architecture which had resulted in dark interiors.
 For McCauley, with his appreciation of 1950s design and style, the challenge was to

update amenities and room relationships without detracting from the original in scale or design, and changes needed to be done within a tight budget.
 "The solution was to draw from Patience's original design moves within and stylistically from the outside. If we sited the house well, the porch would provide shelter from the wind and rain, and shade from the sun."
 Today the house is positioned with the wide gable and porch to the north, allowing the interior to be light filled, yet also offering protection from the prevailing wind and sometimes searing afternoon sun. The gable is visible from the road, unlike the view visitors would have experienced in the 50s. Now entry is less formal, through the kitchen living area, with a dramatic mountain view.
 "The kitchen wall has been removed to allow connection with the dining space, also maximising views. A low partition separates the kitchen work area from the arrival point, built from recycled cedar ply that originally clad the dining room interior."
 New doors open from the lounge to the lawn with glimpses of the sea, and decking connects the living areas on the outside. McCauley researched colours used in the 50s before deciding on his palette.
 "We have beautiful narrow tawa flooring boards and original cedar plywood, so we wanted to use colours that accentuated that timber, we've used Resene Black White in the living areas and Quarter Linen and Quarter White Rock in the bedrooms.
 "The roof is Grey Friars and we chose Resene Robins Egg Blue for the exterior.
 "Amazingly, when we took down a built-in cabinet in the porch that had been damaged in the move, we discovered one square metre of original exterior paint, it was almost exactly the colour we'd chosen."
 It's his attention to detail that sets this Waitare house apart. McCauley has taken much care to retain the original form, so when there was a need to create two bathrooms for modern living, he used the cut made by the house movers, slicing the house in two for transporting along the road, to make change.
 The original 100sqm has been expanded with a further 10sqm inside plus 12 metres of decking.



Dining delight: The 12 square metres of porch connects the living area to outside and provides a delightful alfresco dining spot.

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Pinehaven	\$255,000	\$350,000	\$418,000	-
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Silverstream	\$252,500	\$365,000	\$483,000	\$574,500
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Timberlea	\$223,500	\$247,000	\$596,000	-
Totara Park	\$234,000	\$303,000	\$360,000	\$392,000
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Reverence: Much respect has been paid to the original Patience design in the makeover.



Light and space: The light feel to the interior adds to the spacious feel, the living areas connect to the porch.



Up to date: One of two bathrooms, fitted for modern living.



Comfort and space: One of the bedrooms.

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Leaders Elite

MT VICTORIA

BEO \$2,875,000



TIMELESS GRANDEUR IN MCFARLANE STREET

An iconic residence of unquestionable quality and taste, located in one of Wellington's most sought after streets.
 Originally built in the 1920's, this 368sqm home (including garage) has been extensively renovated. Care has been taken to maintain the integrity of the home whilst integrating modern living style.
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 This residence is exceptionally well located. Sitting directly above Oriental Bay and within an easy stroll to the city and waterfront, residents can enjoy Wellington's grandeur away from the hustle and bustle.
 Large and spacious, this home offers 5 bedrooms, ensuite, 2 bathrooms and powder room, with garaging for 3+ cars and storage.

5 3.5 3+ 4

Open Home
Sunday: 1pm to 2pm
44 McFarlane Street

Mike Brodie
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MOUNT VICTORIA

TENDER



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 Features include:
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 • Seamless flow to a large deck stepping up to the large, private flat lawn, border garden and veggie patch
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 • An entertainers' paradise with incredible flow, formal and informal areas and a chef's kitchen
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 • Stucco on timber framing with copper features - not built of brick
 • Leave your car in the garage and walk to everything

3 1 1 2 210

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