



*something
special*

TRANSFORMED WITH A PASSION FOR DESIGN
AND AN EYE FOR DETAIL, THIS RENOVATION
BY NICK GRIFFIN BUILDER IS A SHOWCASE OF
BEAUTY AND FUNCTION

WORDS LUCINDA DIACK PHOTOGRAPHY MICK STEPHENSON



EXTERIOR The exterior of the home was replastered with a Rockcote fibreglass reinforced masonry render from Resene Construction Systems. Coloured Resene Half Wheatfield, with Resene Eighth Rice Cake used as a highlight, it provides an elegant and strong backdrop to the garden. While the hard landscaping was completed by Fowler Landscapes, the garden's timeless appearance was crafted by Ben McMaster. Three urns are found down the side of the home and have been perfectly positioned as focal points from inside. The entire property has been executed with an eye for detail, setting the scene for a private and tranquil space for both the family and Hugo, the dog, to enjoy.

FRONT DOORS Transforming the exterior from 'mundane to something special' was the addition of architectural detailing by Accumen Shapes. The custom-made decorative mouldings are evident on the columns, cornices and windows. Designed by the owners, the Cedar front doors were made locally by Alsop Joinery and finished by MF Turnbull Ltd. Striking in their presence they set the scene for the beautiful interior which lies beyond.

ENTRANCEWAY

The entranceway features an intricate hand-painted wallpaper. Renovated by Nick Griffin Builder the shape of the building remained unchanged, with the interior remodelled to suit the family's lifestyle and vision.



From the moment you enter Candy and Fred Harding's home, there is little doubt that you have entered something truly special. From the hand-painted wallpaper in the entranceway to the impressive double doors, it is simply breathtaking in its elegance, opulence and detail.

Having purchased the home over five years ago, the couple set about transforming the imposing structure into an impressive home. Describing her style as 'New Hamptons meets New York elegance', Candy has worked tirelessly and with a fierce eye for detail to bring her vision to life.

The exterior of the home was re-plastered by Glenn Munro of Properly Plastered with a Rockcote full mesh masonry render from Resene Construction Systems. Reinforced by fiberglass, the system can be applied over an existing brick or concrete block facade, achieving a cost effective exterior solution that offers excellent performance. Low maintenance and versatile, it features the premium Rockcote finishing system that allows it to be pre-coloured any colour in the Resene range, which in this instance was Resene Half Wheatfield, with Resene Eighth Rice Cake used as a highlight.

Along with new plasterwork, the exterior was given a facelift with the entranceway opened up and impressive double front doors added, along with architectural detailing by Accumen Shapes. 'It changed the house from mundane to something special', shares Candy.



'Custom-made decorative mouldings always create an element of uniqueness', offers Josh Mainwaring of Accumen Shapes. Working with specifiers, installers and directly with homeowners, Accumen Shapes manufacture custom lightweight decorative exterior details with an eye for detail. For the Harding residence DecraShape lightweight mouldings were selected for the columns, cornices and window detailing. A decorative kiln-dried product, they are coated in Accumen's unique and robust KickIt plaster ensuring longevity. The ultimate addition, however, is the exquisite front entrance moulding, which has been manufactured in ShapeCrete, a decorative lightweight concrete.

Also working on the impressive double front doors was Also Joinery. Designed by Candy the Cedar doors are the icing on the cake when it came to achieving an opulent and elegant front entrance. 'All of our work is individually designed to suit homeowner requirements', explains Dave Coombes. Specialists in wooden windows, kitchens, stairs and bespoke joinery, they pride themselves on their quality finish. With a reputation for exceptional craftsmanship, Candy and Fred also called on their expertise to assist with their walk-in robe, stairs, moulded skirtings, architraves and much more.

Working alongside Also Joinery was MF Turnbull Ltd. As furniture finishers and spray painters they worked with

Candy to achieve the exact colours she wanted, and for the entrance the perfect stain for the Cedar doors, before finishing them in a high quality urethane suitable for their exterior location. 'This home was about perfecting a unique look, rather than working with off-the-shelf colours and finishes', explains Murray Turnbull. 'We love a challenge and enjoy working with clients to help them create their vision and turn their dreams into a reality.'

Designed to complement the home, while connecting it with its riverside boundary, the landscaping is timeless in its appeal and beautiful in its appearance. Landscaper Ben McMaster worked alongside the owners to 'marry the garden with the home', which involved dividing it into three 'rooms'. The side garden exemplifies the clever interaction between inside and out: running the length of the living and formal lounge, it has been structured around three large urns, ensuring that from inside 'every window has a focal feature', explains Ben.

Stepping out from the kitchen and dining, the front garden runs down to a tributary of the Avon River and it is here that Candy's vision and Ben's design comes into its own. A sweeping lawn gives perspective, and standing at the end of the garden looking back to the home, the addition of Thuja Smaragd – columns of neat, glossy conifers – achieves a strong and timeless aesthetic. 'Instantly adding formality,

From the *hand-painted wallpaper* in the entranceway to the *impressive double doors*, it is simply breathtaking in its elegance, opulence and detail.



LIVING The lower level features two living areas: the formal sitting room which overlooks the side garden, and the family lounge which adjoins the kitchen and dining area. Bowers and Wilkins 800 front and centre speakers hint at the expansive home automation system.



the Thuja achieves a connection with the house and pulls your eye down into the garden towards the stream, all while framing Candy's roses', explains Ben.

Onsite regularly during the transformation process and afterwards, Ben and his team are no strangers to getting their hands dirty – and return several times a year to trim, shape, train and feed. This commitment ensures the longevity of his designs, as well as their sculptural integrity – imperative that the landscaping is perfect, and remains so.

Creating 'layers and a succession of colour', Ben and his team have established a lush and texture-filled landscape in which the family and beloved golden retriever Hugo are able to relax and play.

Completing the hard landscaping in the garden was Fowler Landscapes. Undertaking the outdoor paving, Richard Fowler designed and built the steps that connect the house to the outdoor living area, laid the lawn, and installed Warner Fences across the property both for privacy and to create a safe enclosure for Hugo.

Richard was also involved in the design and build of one of the most picturesque settings on the property – a small jetty, complete with gnome, for those needing a place to dock while kayaking down the stream.

As with the garden, the home has been beautifully transformed with impeccable attention to detail – under the watchful eye of Nick Griffin Builder. For Nick it was a project that began as a 'minor' job and that – excitingly – 'evolved as it went on'.

BATHROOM Designed by Emma Morris of Eterno Design the guest ensuite is striking in its simplicity.

Describing her style as *'New Hamptons meets New York elegance'*, Candy has worked tirelessly and with a fierce eye for detail to bring her vision to life.

'The shape of the building has stayed the same; but the entire interior has been remodeled', Nick shares. While downstairs the floor plan remains the same structurally, the opening up of the stairwell and the upper level have been significant transformations. 'Upstairs has been converted from a series of smaller rooms into a large landing, two guest bedrooms and the expansive master suite', explains Nick.

'We gutted the entire level', shares Candy. A process, which allowed them to achieve exactly what they wanted.

'Candy and Fred had an unwavering dedication to quality and detail', recalls Nick. 'And it was a pleasure to work alongside them to translate their thoughts and pictures into a reality.'

Sharing the Harding's passion for quality, Nick and his team have become specialists in large-scale renovations and new builds, bringing to each of their projects an eye for detail, an ability to problem solve and an understanding of intricate structures.

One of the most beautiful spaces in the home is the ground level guest bedroom. Fondly referred to as the Ralph Lauren room, it is sumptuous and instantly appealing in its warmth.

Designed by Emma Morris of Eterno Design, the adjoining guest ensuite is striking in its simplicity. 'Every piece in the bathroom was carefully chosen to follow the Ralph Lauren theme', shares Emma. 'The combination of the extreme high stud with the interplay of natural light from the angled skylight creates a synthesis of forms within the small but dynamic space. The custom-designed tiled shower and floor makes for a wonderful showering experience, with the tiled drain disappearing in the diamond laid black granite tiled floor.'

'The intention was to make use of all the space without feeling too enclosed, all while achieving an elegant, yet functional space. It has become a piece of art and a haven for the owners and their guests', Emma explains.



CHILDREN'S BEDROOM A haven for the grandchildren, the bedroom is filled with beautiful pieces including a custom-made shelving unit by Alsop Joinery.

GUEST BEDROOM The Ralph Lauren-inspired guest bedroom was the first room to be renovated. Old family portraits have been hung with precision by Eco Frame and Mirror.



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While the dining, living and the adjoining formal lounge have been refreshed with new paintwork and custom-made furniture, it is the art work adorning the walls that makes this a home with heart. 'Art hanging is a great and rewarding job', shares Graeme Patching of Eco Frame and Mirror. 'It helps turn a house into a home, and truly allows the personality of those who live there to shine.'

From family portraits to mirrors and landscapes, Graeme and his team work with their clients to get it right. 'There are a lot of discussions and a bit of up, down, left and right – but it is essential homeowners are involved in where and how their art is hung.' In this instance the stacking of the family portraits in the living room draws your eye from the kitchen down the length of the room, an effect which is mirrored in the Ralph Lauren bedroom.

'Consultation with the customer was provided in-store and on-site to ensure the best possible result', continues Graeme. 'The mirror and the framing in the Ralph Lauren bedroom are perfectly in keeping with the space.'

Taking centrestage in the living room are the impressive Bowers and Wilkins 800 front and centre speakers. As directors of B&W Loudspeakers, home automation was an important inclusion for Fred and Candy. 'We wanted to have the best theatre in the place where we spend most of our time – the informal living room', explains Fred. 'And at the same time not compromise on two channel audio (stereo), which we listen to in the same place.'

They also wanted to have audio in every room of the home allowing them to stream wirelessly, and at the touch of a button have music playing in the bathroom, bedroom or living – a concept achieved through the addition of Bowers and Wilkins ceiling speakers, Classé amplifiers and Marantz Blu-ray player and components. 'Our sense of hearing is fundamental to our enjoyment of life', remarks Fred. 'And buying quality audio like Bowers and Wilkins allows you to participate fully.'

Listening to Candy talk about her home, there is no disguising the pride and passion she has – and rightfully so. Standing tall and proud, the magnificent home is flawless in its finish. However she is quick to point out that there is more to come, with a new kitchen the next phase.

'Standing back and looking at this finished product is immensely satisfying', shares builder Nick Griffin. 'It is a project which evolved as it went on, and one that will continue to grow. It was a pleasure to be part of it.'

DINING

Found overseas, the beautiful dining table is the perfect place around which to relax and enjoy the lush garden views.

INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT

ART HANGING

Eco Frame and Mirror
03 377 0223
frameandmirror.co.nz

BATHROOM DESIGN

Eterno Design
021 246 5753
eternodesign.co.nz

BUILDER

Nick Griffin Builder
027 289 2214

CLADDING

Resene Construction Systems
03 338 6328
reseneconstruction.co.nz

DECORATIVE MOULDINGS

Accumen Shapes Ltd
021 221 1565
accumen.co.nz

FURNITURE FINISHING & SPRAY PAINTING

MF Turnbull Ltd
03 365 2519
mfturnbull.co.nz

HOME AUTOMATION

B&W Loudspeakers (NZ)
03 365 5677
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JOINERY

Alsop Joinery
03 348 4666
alsopjoinery.co.nz

LANDSCAPING

Ben McMaster
03 355 3284
benmcmaster.co.nz

Fowler Landscapes Limited
021 926 226
richardfowlerlandscaping.co.nz