

Global award for block work

PHILIP CHANDLER

A QUEENSTOWN supplier of insulated concrete blocks has won an international award.

Jeremy Chisholm's company PhD Building — which supplies Canadian-made Nudura insulated concrete formwork (ICF) for exterior and interior walls and foundations — won the 'unlimited residential' category at the international ICF awards in Las Vegas, in the United States, early this year.

The award was for an 820 square metre home, 'Te Toka', at Queenstown's Jack's Point — which won Master Builders' 'southern house of the year' award for local builder DCD Ltd last year.

PhD Building installed 980sqm of product for all the interior and exterior walls, making it the largest ICF house construction in the southern hemisphere.

It was also installed in only six weeks, which the builder estimated saved 16 weeks of construction time.

"It was a massive accolade for Nudura, for ICF and for us here in New Zealand," Chisholm says.

"It was up against all the 'McMansions' in America."

His company also installed some of the walls on a Ferguson Builders Jack's Point home which was also a southern house-of-the-year award-winner last year.

Chisholm's company has supplied, and often also installed, Nudura for 150-plus buildings, mostly in and around Queenstown, over the past 10



Another block in the wall: This Jack's Point house build employed a southern hemisphere-record 980sqm of Nudura insulated concrete formwork; inset, the finished product

years. These include La Residence du Parc — two Arthurs Point apartment buildings — which was completed four years ago.

At the time, it was the largest multi-storey ICF building project in the southern hemisphere.

Chisholm says his ambition's to bring passive house levels of performance to all builds, meaning homes stay naturally warm using minimal amounts of heating.

"My goal is to influence people who are about to build a

house to demand their builder go for a higher-performing thermal envelope.

"All else that goes into the house is as normal, except a vast reduction in the need for expensive-to-install and expensive-to-run heating systems."

'Sustainability' is a key word these days, Chisholm says, and durability's a driver of that.

Current NZ building code requires buildings last 50 years, "which is pretty short".

Independent tests, he says, show ICF walls last at least 100

years — "this is the first product we know of in NZ to meet this".

"We should use inorganic materials for our exterior walls wherever possible," he argues, as against organic, timber structural walls.

He adds the concrete, reinforced steel and polystyrene used in Nudura product are all 100% recyclable.

"At the end of a timber structure's life, it is not recycled.

"And from a cost perspective,

a Nudura ICF wall costs almost the same as a masonry wall, except the ICF wall has insulation on both sides, and fixing points for internal and external linings."

A bonus, he says, is do-it-yourselfers can erect Nudura walls.

"Anyone who has built a fence or played with Lego can be trained in one day on the basics of ICF construction."

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ON THE HUNT This week's property hotspots

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YOU WISH



8 Kahiwi Drive, Lower Shotover

Price: By Negotiation

This architecturally designed three bedroom home was built in 2006, and has been substantially renovated this year including addition of a double garage and several modern upgrades. Broad open plan living opens out to a full-length courtyard that wraps around to a sheltered built-in BBQ area and leads on to a private jetty overlooking the Koko Ridge pond.

Get in touch: Hugh Clark, Ph: 027 2232 997.
Fred Bramwell, Ph: 021 435 694

UPGRADING



30 McAdam Drive, Jacks Point

Price: \$1,825,000

30 McAdam Drive is the ideal home for a family, professional or retired couple, or as a holiday base. The master bedroom has external access to the spa outside, large walk-in wardrobe and ensuite bathroom complete with a spa bath. There is an added bonus of a second living area which boasts stunning views of Jack's Point and its surrounds.

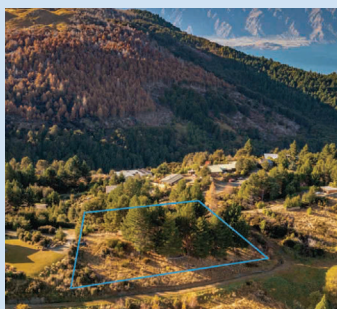
Get in touch: Richie Heap, Ph: 021 500 815.
Zach Hylton, Ph: 027 369 6805

LAND AHOY

151 Alpine Retreat Road, Closeburn

Price: Enquiries over \$1,400,000

A rare opportunity exists to secure an elevated 5016sqm section that shows off everything Queenstown has to offer. The breath-taking bush-covered enclave of Alpine Retreat is one of this town's best kept secrets. Tucked away above tranquil Moke Lake, surrounded by native bush, birdsong and soaring outlooks across valleys and mountains. Boundary indicative only.



Get in touch: Fred Bramwell, Ph: 021 435 694

ATTENTION INVESTORS

1 & 1A, 21 Inverness Crescent, Arrowtown

Price: \$1,550,000

This spacious home and dual-income property will draw interest from both astute investors seeking a quality addition to their portfolios, and home buyers looking for the mortgage busting bonus of extra income. The main residence is spread over two levels and boasts three generously sized bedrooms. As an added bonus, there are two self-contained flats. Boundary indicative.

Get in touch: Vera Stewart, Ph: 021 0596 266.
Jesse Johnston, Ph: 027 733 7755



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