



Low profile, high drama

Levin | Manawatū-Whanganui



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Of the eight homes Craig and Tania Diffey have built for themselves over the years, this one is their favourite. “With the others, there was always something we wished we had done differently,” Craig says. “But here, we wouldn’t change a thing.”

The mid-century-inspired home was the first to grace Phoenix Palms, Craig and business partner Malcolm’s new Levin subdivision. The two purchased the land three years ago and, today, stage one has just four house-and-land packages left – with stage two scheduled to open later in 2020.

“I wanted to use my house as a show-piece, so potential buyers could see what’s possible,” Craig explains. “We wanted to push the boundaries.”

Boundary-pusher-in-chief was Taupo-based architect James, of JT Design Architecture. His vision included a barely-there roof, wide double fascias, and square cedar columns. The result strikes a compelling balance between low profile and high drama.

Beyond the grand, column-lined entrance, you’ll find an interior filled with equal flair. The high-gloss recycled rimu floors contrast beautifully with the matte stone fireplace – made using stones from the Hutt and Otaki Rivers.

Craig describes his home as a contemporary attention-grabber. “I’d call it a modern twist on a mid-century look. It’s certainly different for Levin!” he says. “People are always driving past taking videos and photos, so it’s definitely had the desired effect.” So much so, Craig has since made James his architect-of-choice for the entire subdivision.

“You drive through Phoenix Palms, and every house is different,” says Craig. “It doesn’t feel like a subdivision at all.” 🏡

NZCB Member / Craig Diffey

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