

Enjoy the process of design



At Bob Burnett Architecture, Bob Burnett and Shizuka Yasui work together on every project. “Our strengths complement each other. Bob is more artistic, and I am more logical,” says Shizuka.

She is good at translating client’s needs into the plan layout for their house. She does well with planning for even limited small spaces, designing them in such a way that they feel more spacious – a skill that comes from experience gained in Japan, where space is at a premium.

Bob’s talent is creating well-proportioned buildings that are easy on the eye, with a cohesive appearance incorporating clean lines and details. They design “from the inside out and from outside in”, from modern to traditional homes, and also enjoy the challenge of designing alterations and the reward of seeing the before and after shots.

Bob is an architectural designer who has 24 years of experience in commercial buildings and designing homes. Shizuka is a qualified Japanese architect and had four and half years’ experience in Japan before coming to New Zealand in 1999, joining the firm soon after.

“We want our clients to enjoy the process of design,” says Shizuka, “and ultimately end up with a home that expresses their character and one that they love to live in.”

They also try to support their clients as much as they can through the building stage.

“Having recently built our own home and being very closely involved through



the building process, we know how to avoid potential problems that can create hassles and stress.”

They spend a good deal of time getting know the clients’ tastes and how they want to live in their new house.

“A close relationship with the client is vital,” says Bob. This pays off in the long run and often provides inspirations for some ideas. “Of course we have our own taste, which you can see in our own house and several others. But we are very aware of the importance of being in tune with the taste of each client. This gives each house its own individual character.”

The firm encourages sustainable, eco-friendly homes. “Being energy efficient

makes sense, as you have a more comfortable home with smaller power bills.”

“A timeline is provided for the entire process, how long for the design concept stage, the documentation stage, and for building consents, pricing and getting a builder signed up,” says Bob.

Budget is always a major consideration and a budget estimate is always sought at design concept stage. As a matter of course high quality 3D images and movies of the building’s exterior are presented to clients, enabling them easily visualise their project.

Much of Bob Burnett Architecture’s recent work has been on houses on the hill, for “people who want something a bit different and of a better quality”. While most of their work is in residential design, they also do commercial work. Bob has wide experience in large commercial buildings, hotel and retail design. Currently he is working on a shop in the new extension at Westfield Mall.

Bob Burnett Architecture regularly win awards for their designs, as can be seen on their website, www.bobburnett.co.nz.