

BUILDING innovations

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The best of east and west

The hillside home of Christchurch husband-and-wife design team Bob Burnett and Shizuka Yasui has attracted plenty of media attention for its stylish design and energy efficient features.

As well as being their home, the property serves as a showhome, whilst the top floor is the base for their business, Bob Burnett Architecture.

"The home is a great way for us to showcase our design capabilities as well as a range of energy efficient features," says Burnett.

He says that energy efficiency has become a "hot topic" in recent times, but has always been a focus of the firm.

"All our buildings are super-insulated and incorporate double-glazing, some with special

"low E" glass and thermally broken frames. We also use state-of-the-art computer software to analyse the energy efficiency of each new building at the design stage."

Bob Burnett has 22 years experience in commercial and residential architecture and design, while Shizuka Yasui holds the highest level (level 1) of registration for architects in Japan. She worked as an architect in Japan for four years before coming to New Zealand in 1999.

Their "east meets west" perspective, and the fact they work together on every project, is an advantage for clients, Burnett believes.

"We have different strengths, so are a great complement to each other. With Shizuka coming from Japan, she is very good at

planning and making the best use of every available space, while I probably do more at the technical end."

He says their multi award-winning firm is dedicated to creating high quality buildings with "innovative and timeless designs" that are also easy on the environment with low running costs.

While hillside homes have become a speciality - they spend around 70% of their time on hill projects - they also work on other new home designs, as well as commercial projects, and alteration work.

Burnett says the firm is known for its high quality visualisations, with all designs produced as photo-realistic 3D visuals and movies.

"Many clients find it difficult to read plans

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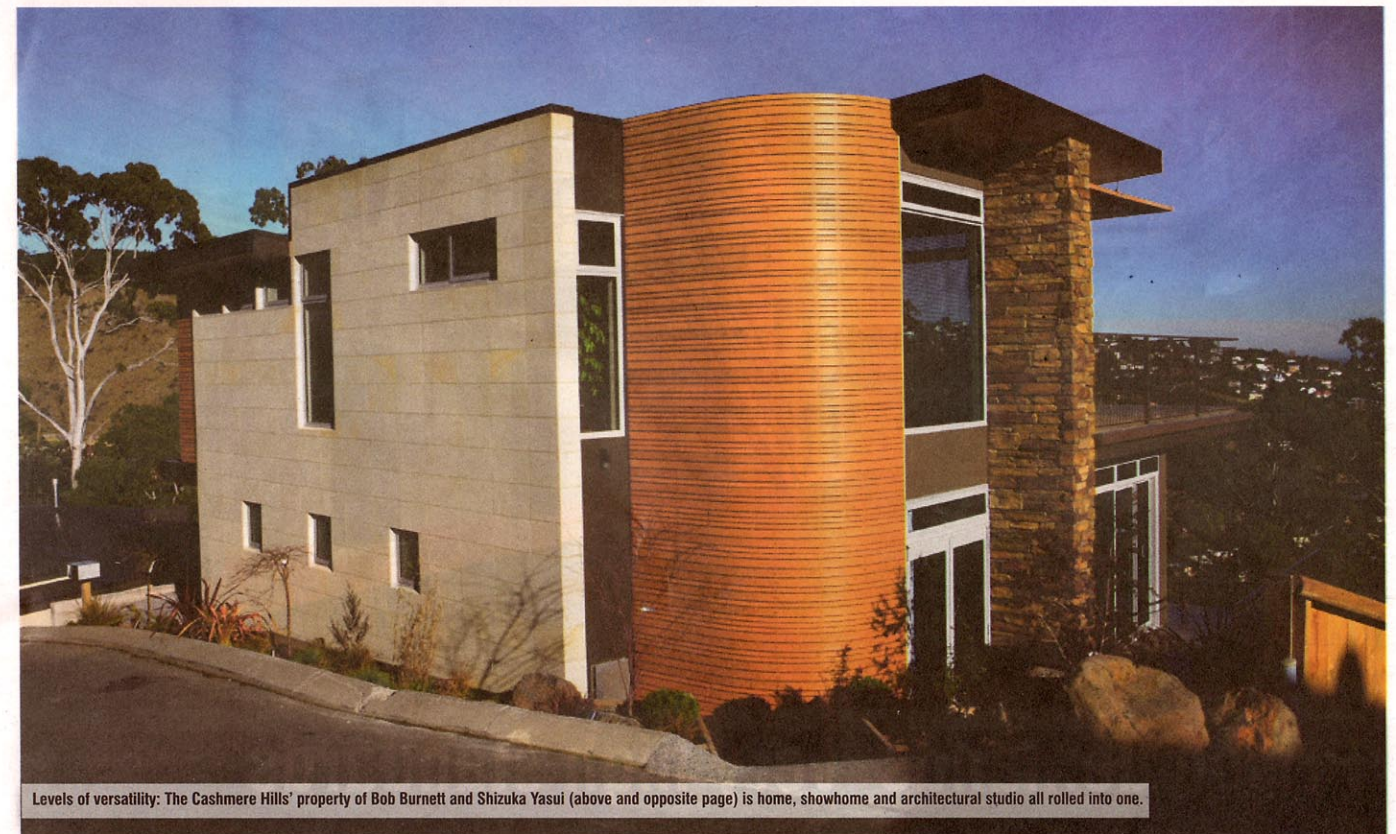
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Levels of versatility: The Cashmere Hills' property of Bob Burnett and Shizuka Yasui (above and opposite page) is home, showhome and architectural studio all rolled into one.

and imagine what the finished project will look like, so this software is extremely useful."

He says the couple spends a lot of time getting to know their client's style and taste before the design process even begins.

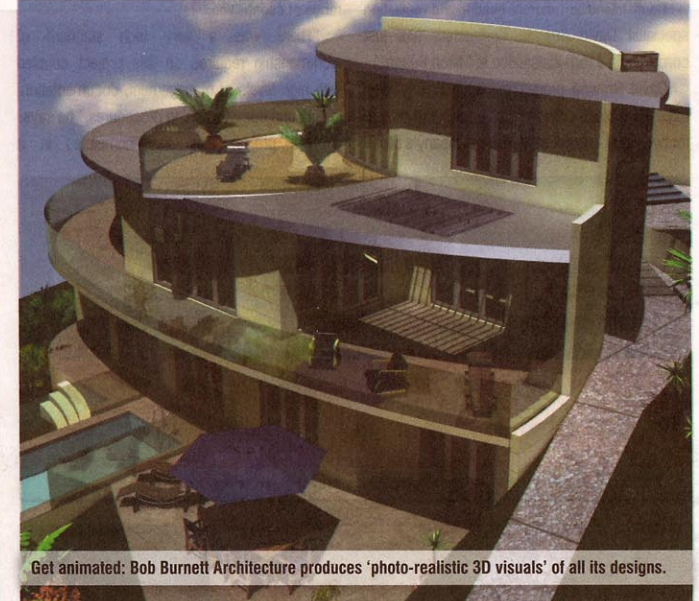
"We show people examples of our past projects and also ask them to bring in digital photos or pictures out of magazines of aspects of homes that they like, so that we can get their new home design right the first time."

The couple's preference is to build "timeless homes", with good use of space and natural materials such as wood, stone and glass.

"It is important to us that people feel comfortable in their homes, and that they have a homely, relaxed feel."

In the commercial line, Bob Burnett Architecture has worked on everything from hotels and shopping centres to retail stores and cafes.

The firm also generates 3D visuals for local architects and other building industry related clients, with the images used in real estate magazines, and on websites and billboards to market properties for sale prior to construction.



Get animated: Bob Burnett Architecture produces 'photo-realistic 3D visuals' of all its designs.

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