

# A view from the top

Overlooking the water with the most breathtaking of views, this special new home has captured the heart and soul of its inhabitants.

Words **Soraya Nicholas** Photography **Kelsi Duin**



**LEFT** The home, constructed from solid brick with a smooth plaster finish, has a prime position looking out over Gulf Harbour, with views stretching as far as Waiheke and Rangitoto Islands. **ABOVE** A coloured glass splashback in Resene Boomtown with Pixie Dust reflects the light in the kitchen. **BELOW** Over-height windows and doors create a light-filled, bright interior.

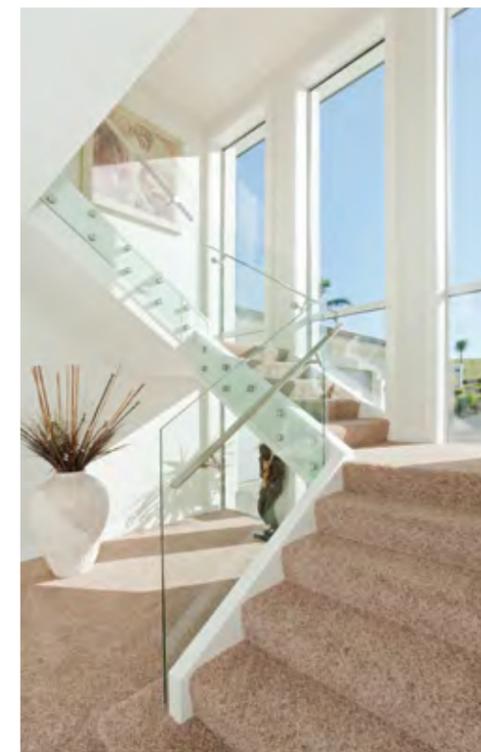
**AFTER LIVING ON THE GOLD COAST** prior to moving back to New Zealand, Bruce Morpeth was keen to retire. So along with wife Therese and their three children, they made the decision to return to their roots, first settling in the Hawke's Bay. "Bruce had always wanted to look around the Gulf Harbour area," explains Therese of the place they now live. "He particularly liked the peninsula, so we came here, fell in love, and purchased the section we saw for sale." Returning to their lifestyle property, they ended up selling it within a week, and the rest was history.

"We have some of the best boating in the world here, and probably the most spectacular views in Auckland," says Bruce. "That was one of our main considerations when we were building, to maximise the windows in the house to really bring the water view inside."

Because they hadn't lived in the area before, the Morpeths talked to locals

and spent time trying to find the right builder, and after making a shortlist of four, they soon decided on **Building & Beyond Ltd**. "We looked at the projects they had completed and took our time, and it was the right choice. We've built a number of homes but they are definitely the best builders we have ever used."

Because the views are undoubtedly one of the property's most special features, the new home was designed to incorporate the outlook wherever possible. A covered alfresco area, which is one of Bruce's favourite areas of the home, takes in the breathtaking view out over the grounds and to the water, and substantial windows and doors emphasise the view from inside. Supplied by **Windowmakers Ltd**, the Metro Suite joinery in a natural anodised frost finish was custom-made for the project, creating incredible views from almost every room. Aside from its clean, sophisticated appearance, the windows and doors





## Our Place with Bruce & Therese Morpeth

**Home is?**  
Very easy to live in, easy to maintain and beautifully built. The layout works well for us, with our bedroom downstairs and the kids upstairs.

**Favourite room?**  
**Therese:** The kitchen, because of the panoramic views. I love cooking and baking in this space.

**Bruce:** The living room and the undercover outdoor areas. We really enjoy being out there.

**Best buy?**  
We have a lot of pieces in our home that we've accumulated over the years from different countries and they're very precious to us, such as our terracotta warrior and the gold-leaf lady.

**What do friends & family like most?**  
The views, without a doubt.

**Advice to others preparing to build?**  
Select your builder very carefully and check out their subcontractors. Don't take any shortcuts either, because in the long run whatever you spend on your home is a great investment.

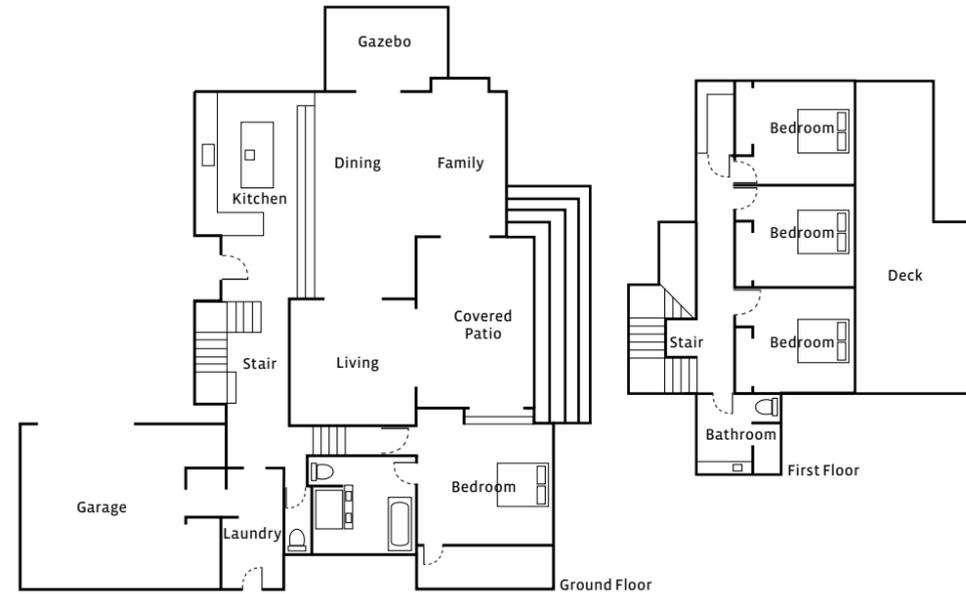
**ABOVE** The views are undoubtedly one of the home's most special features. Resene Quarter Caraway creates a warm yet contemporary interior style, with the island bench adding depth and texture to the open-plan living/kitchen area. The bench is an Antique Brown granite. **BELOW** An undercover alfresco area is a favourite place for the homeowners to relax, sheltered from the elements.



selected for the home are ideal for high wind zones, which was an important consideration given the home's hilltop position. The final finish was also chosen in relation to the location of the dwelling, because it is well suited to areas where sea-spray can be an issue. To further enhance the large window spans and ensure unobstructed views, the high sashes are electrically operated.

In keeping with the light, almost holiday feel of the home, Bruce and Therese chose a warm white for the entire interior. **YYT Ltd** was in charge of all the decorating for the home, exclusively using Dulux Professional paint in Resene colour Quarter Caraway. They selected a low sheen version for the walls, to ensure they could be easily cleaned, with a semi-gloss enamel for the doors, architraves and skirting boards. The master painters also worked extensively on the exterior of the home, applying Dulux Har primer and Elastermeric for the plaster system, and a Weathershield X10 paint system for the fascia and soffit.

After years dreaming of living in the region, Bruce and Therese are in love with their lifestyle on the hill. With their boat moored nearby, and so much to explore out on the water, it's an idyllic existence. "The view here really is incredible," shares Therese. "We often watch boats going past, and yesterday we saw at least 50 dolphins." They can also look out to the signature golf hole of the Gulf Harbour



**ABOVE LEFT** A large spa bath is a feature in the ensuite bathroom, directly adjoining the master bedroom. **ABOVE** The living areas all interconnect, although the lounge can be separated if necessary. **FLOOR PLAN** The two-storey home was designed to carefully fit the hill site and to face the view.

Country Club course, making their property even more special. "We have had many lovely homes, but this is magnificent," says Bruce. "We feel great waking up here every day, and we'll never tire of looking out at the water. It's incredible." ■

**THE SPECS** Gulf Harbour  
400 Sq m



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