

# Creating buildings designed to age gracefully

Continuing in our occasional series on architects, Jill Wild talks to Wellington's John Mills.

ARCHITECT Architect John Mills says his aim is to create buildings that improve with time, like a great-fitting leather jacket: "Buildings that speak of their environment and the dreams and values of the clients within. Because buildings are too important to be an expression of fashion".

"The space left over is as important as the space you create, so we work closely with our clients and builders to maximise all parts of the buildings to ensure we get the best result and value for money, in every element inside and out."

"We become a trusted adviser, composing adaptable, engaging and comfortable spaces that age gracefully."

His preferred materials are a variety of timbers, which are often used for doors, floors and built-in furniture, and these are combined with other materials, colours and plenty of double glazing to embrace the

views, creating a unique environment in which to live.

The aim, he says, is a design that creates seamless inside-outside transitions, with spaces to sit and share the day.

Hallmarks of Mills' work are unique, beautiful spaces rich in light, with natural materials working with complementary colours and fabrics with the extensive use of timbers to look at and touch.

"We manage each job from concept, through design, construction and project management to interiors and furnishings right up to the moving in date and beyond."

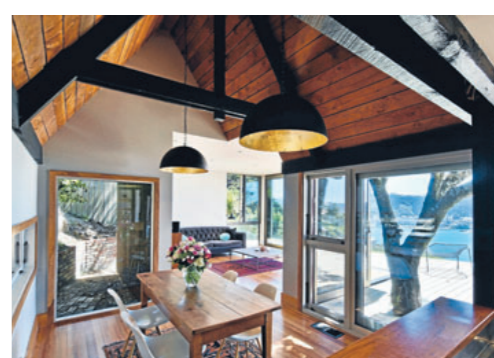
"A quality end result is paramount, consequently many of our projects are published and receive our awards."

"We, and our clients, have found we can add real and emotional value to a home."

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The recent renovation and restoration of the Ian Athfield-designed home, above and below right, on the upper slopes of Mount Victoria was one of John Mills' favourite projects. The Hataitai family home, bottom left, was an award winner for the firm in 2011.



**Name:** John Mills.  
**Company:** John Mills Architects.  
**Background:** I've been practising architecture in Wellington since graduating in 1984. I formed JMA (John Mills Architects) in 1990 to create one-off places and spaces that are always meaningful to those who live and/or work in them.

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Clouston Park	\$199,000	\$294,000	\$385,000	\$460,000
Ebdentown	\$228,000	\$324,000	\$381,000	-
Elderslea	\$273,000	\$330,000	\$395,000	-
Heretaunga	\$250,000	\$378,000	\$501,000	\$928,000
Kingsley Heights	-	\$398,000	\$463,000	-
Maoribank	\$200,000	\$280,000	\$333,500	-

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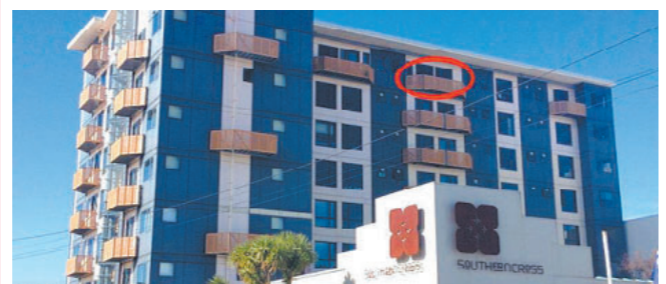


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