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# Athfield reborn in Roseneath

**Emma Taylor** spoke to the team who renovated a tired Athfield classic into a stylishly contemporary home

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL MCCREDIE

Nestled in the hills of Roseneath, overlooking the hustle and bustle of the capital, sits a newly renovated home that is equally as eye-catching as the view.

Originally designed by the late Sir Ian Athfield, the classic home's renovations and extension are the work of architect John Mills, who says he was honoured to work it.

The aim of the renovation was to meet old with new while retaining the character and unique qualities of the original home, which won its first award in the 1970s.

The renovation saw the home win a Gold Award at the 2015 Master Builders Wellington/Wairarapa Master Builders House of the Year, with Scotty's Construction also taking home the prize for Local Supreme Winner for Renovation of the Year.

The success of this renovation was predetermined when John Mills introduced Scott Feasey from Scotty's Construction to the client right at the beginning, at the initial concept stage. Working together, they were able to deliver the clients' dream renovation to their budget without losing John's distinctive design flair.

- 1. This craftsman build has a prime spot in the hills of Roseneath
- 2. Waking up to this stunning view never gets old
- 3. Contemporary living is at its finest, taking open plan living to the next level



4. The perfect spot to wind down after a busy day in the Capital  
 5. The large windows mean the homeowners can enjoy the view all year round

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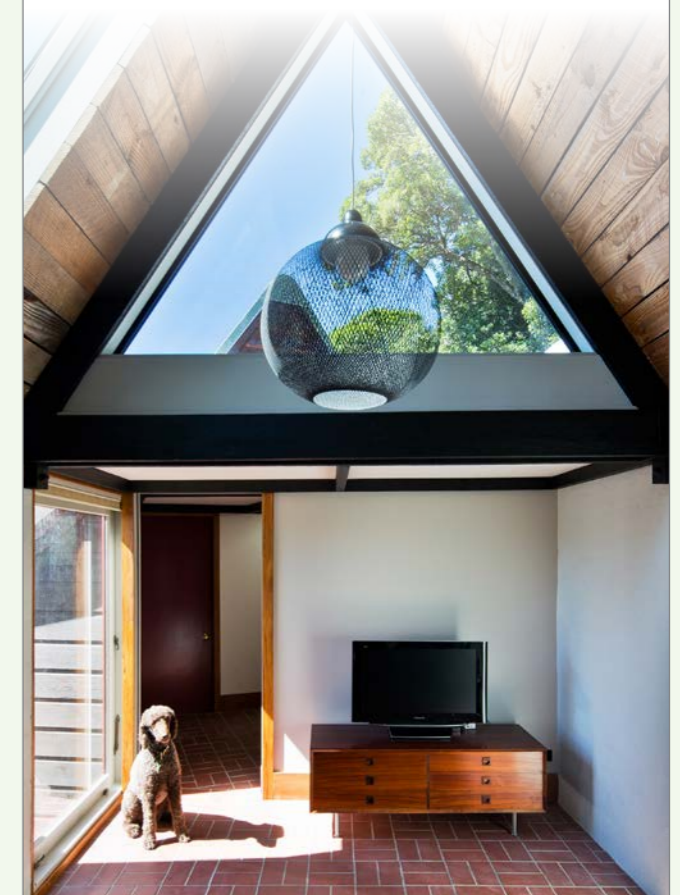
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6. The home's open plan living is perfect for entertaining  
7. Windows in every direction mean sunlight beams in from all angles



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It is hard to believe that not so long ago this was a home that was in dire need of a facelift. "They had their already cool house, completely pimped. You know it's like rebuilding a cool old Chevy car. It's a bit rusty, but give it new tyres and a motor and you've refreshed the original beauty. We did exactly that to their house."

Previously suffering from leaks and lacking insulation, the interior is now exceptionally dry and warm. Installing a forced air-heating system and retro double-glazing took the chill off this once cold and damp home while dramatically reduced the owners' energy bill. A new fireplace has added a warmth and ambience that's particularly cosy on cold nights in the capital. New windows and multiple skylights capture the light and solar heat on this north-facing hillside site.

During the six-month rebuild, Scott says the hardest part was working at height with a cable car for access. "The house is elevated and the deck is probably seven metres above the ground."

"Demolition and removal of the rubbish was a challenge in itself, before we even started the task of getting materials up to the site!"

The home reflects a true craftsman build, using organic materials inside and out. The brick exterior flows into the kitchen and creates a rustic backdrop. Timber ceilings and fittings flow throughout the home, complementing the dark beams of the A-line ceiling.

Extensive glazing to the north and northwest walls of the open-plan area maximise stunning city and harbour views. The outdoor deck completes the indoor-outdoor flow. The sweeping alfresco area is an ideal spot to entertain for the foodie owners, who unsurprisingly love their new space.

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8. Feature lamps like this one make for eye-catching décor  
9. Natural colours and materials flow throughout the home

A large, established tree appears to have sprouted from below the wooden planks of the deck, providing just the right amount of shelter from the summer sun.

Not a stone was left unturned with this project, and the original corrugated-iron rooftops were replaced with aluminium, using lots of handcrafted details and welded flashings. Hayden Cassidy from Classic Metals says that while the curved fittings are always tricky they were very pleased with the results.

The owners provided a beautiful selection of European lights to install, some being very heavy or awkwardly shaped, giving electrician Scott Young from Yes Electrical his own challenge. The end result was unique and a reward in itself.

This house renovation is more than just an award-winning masterpiece; it provides the owners an oasis from the city — so close to the hustle and bustle but tucked far enough up the hill that you could be mistaken for feeling like you were on holiday.

John Mills' clever design, brought to life by the skilful team at Scotty's Construction, has created a paradise that can be enjoyed in all seasons, from stormy nights listening to the rain on the roof to enjoying long summer evenings with friends on the deck.

The success of this project is testament to the importance of architects introducing the builder to the initial concept at the early stages, to ensure that both the client and architect are satisfied their design and budget needs are met. **fi**

This truly special project wouldn't have been possible without the support of 4 Star Flooring, Flett Painters, Yes Electrical, Carters Building Supplies, Prestige Joinery, Scotty's Construction, Classic Metals & John Mills Architects.

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