

Architectural designer known for stylish design

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When Diana Blake and husband Barry moved to Whangamata 11 years ago, the idea was that both would run the family motel. As a sideline, she continued running her successful architectural design practice, Diana Blake Design, which she had previously operated in Hamilton. But as word of Diana's design expertise spread around the Coromandel, the business got so busy that it became a full time job, and now also involves Barry.

The practice is going from strength to strength as more people get to know her distinctive style. Though she's known for her exciting, modern and beautifully designed homes, Diana loves a challenge and regards no job as too big or too small. "I treat everything from small renovations of existing baches to large new homes or commercial projects with the same professionalism and innovative design solutions."

Diana loves working in the Coromandel for its diversity and for peoples' willingness to embrace good design, and would love to hear from you to discuss your latest ideas or project. She says she has found architectural design a perfect career choice for a woman. "When I was training, it was very male-dominated, but it has slowly changed, with more women pursuing careers in the various design fields. "It really is fantastic being able to work from home while, raising a family.

"Barry is involved in measuring existing buildings and surveying ground levels and is a general sounding board for new ideas and construction methods." Diana and Barry have three children who attend Whangamata Area School. Her office is on a lifestyle block on the outskirts of town, where the peaceful environment is a great source of inspiration and new ideas.

"It is never a chore going to work in these surroundings."

