



Diana Blake

With her own practice, '[Diana Blake Design](#)' based in the holiday resort of Whangamata, New Zealand, Diana has been working in the architectural profession for more than 20 years.

From an early age, Diana had childhood memories of her father spending hours laying bricks, mixing concrete and building around her childhood home. In her teenage years, Diana also used to cycle around the city looking for new houses under construction, for which she would devise layouts or build with Lego models.

Specialising in residential projects, retail, hospitality and service industries, her favourite part of the job is being able to bring happiness to her clients' lives. Seeing a house being lived in and people enjoying the spaces gives her great satisfaction and a great accompaniment to her love of the whole creative process of design.

At the age of 26 she was able to realise her dream by setting up her own agency and managed to overcome all the obstacles, creating a business of which she is very proud, and that has achieved recognition and celebration in the industry with several awards over the years. Combining a personal and professional highlight, her son has also chosen a career in architecture and has now been part of the firm for just over two years.

In Diana's view, the health of our planet is a big factor in both the world and the industry these days. "I hope I can make a small difference by making more sustainable choices in the selection of building materials and processes, making builders more aware of the amount of waste in the construction industry and how to reduce it, and designing homes that follow the passive house principles to achieve more sustainability", she said. Diana has chosen Accoya for a number of projects, not only for its appearance, but also for its longevity, stability and the fact that it is non-toxic and able to withstand the harsh New Zealand coastal climate.

As a career, Diana finds that architecture brings together a great combination of challenging, fulfilling and rewarding moments, and is something all young people should at least consider. A passion for design and construction is a good start, and being able to communicate and listen is key. There is always more to learn and there are always interesting developments and changes – but all in all, she says that if anyone might be interested in architecture as a future career they should "Go for it!"