

DCD sets passive home benchmark

DCD is the new builder on the Queenstown block, and the company is already setting the national benchmark in near-passive home construction.

Nestled in the Wakatipu Basin, with a stunning 360 degree view of the Remarkables and Coronet Peak, DCD's beautiful colonial-inspired 'Homestead and Stable' project is the first build in the area to achieve an airtightness performance rating that is twice that required of a passive house - and the best ever recorded in Central Otago.

"It is believed to be one of the top two results in the country across the hundreds of tests that have been conducted nationwide, guaranteeing our building will perform beautifully as a thermally efficient home," says founding director Dennis Dowling.

Dowling says DCD's success stems from its "solution-driven team" who think laterally and heavily research every facet of the build before they begin. "We achieved this stunning result with products and methods that have never been used in this region before, such as prefabricated, fully insulated and cladding-ready walls which were made in Christchurch and based on German prefabrication methods."

With a career spanning six countries and more than two decades, Dowling's expert knowledge about local and international best practice for both commercial and residential projects is impressive.

"From the design and quality control process to the intricacies of sound contract practices and building science, every aspect of the building and construction process is covered, including applying the extensive experience gained through leaky building repair," he says.

Dowling's personality and attention to detail is manifested in the approach the DCD team takes to the building process.

"Building is tough on clients and it's our job to look after them. This includes ensuring they do not make design decisions without being fully informed of the cost, benefits and potential problems with any design solution they are considering."

Merging old school carpentry skills and progressive building practices, DCD's sustainable approach to construction means the team runs a rigorous onsite recycling programme and uses chisels and hand planers to deliver what their clients want.

"When constructing your living environment we don't build with aluminium joinery, 90mm framing or cold slabs because our construction methods are proven to be better."

DCD's unique model benefits everyone involved in the build, from the architect to the client, saving significant time and money.



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"In the third month of our current build we asked our designer whether he was excited by the project.

"He said while there is usually a mountain of work to get through helping the builder understand the plans right up until the roof goes on, he hadn't heard from our guys at all.

"That validates our DCD model is working."

Dowling says the company's fresh approach to building methodology is perfectly suited to Central Otago's extreme temperatures and striking, but challenging, landscapes.

"DCD offers people the chance to stamp their personality on a cost-effective home that is not only beautiful and unique, complementing its surroundings, but also thermally efficient, warm and healthy."

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