



House on Waimea Inlet, Mapua 2006



Kumutoto Bay bach, Queen Charlotte Sound, 2007  
Photo: PAUL MCCREDIE

Photo: DANIEL ALLEN

# Designing in harmony is goal

In professional terms architect Jeremy Smith is mid-career, but in achievement he is at the top of his field. In this architect profile Jill Wild finds out what makes him tick.

**N**ELSON architect Jeremy Smith practises what he preaches and endeavours to make each project reflect the clients of that unique development. The company ethos of Irving Smith Jack Architects is about designing to respond to the surrounds, to create beautiful but not showy, to allow the architecture to retreat into the landscape rather than stand out.

Years in the trade: Graduated as 1998's top architectural student from Victoria University with a first-class honours degree winning the Victoria University Centennial medal for post-graduate academic achievement. He is currently completing a PhD through Auckland University between work commitments. Also has a BSc in Geology from Otago University and a BBS (Building Studies) from Victoria University

Credo: In a world we like to think our

work produces "soft" architecture. That is architecture that is very carefully and creatively designed to be contextually responsive and beautiful, but not overly showy. This allows the landscape to inform the spaces we make, and our architecture to retreat into landscapes rather than shout to be noticed. Perhaps that is how we are as people too.

**Materials:** Every project really is different, so it is a case of exploring opportunities and finding the right answer each time. That means not having any preconceived ideas for materials, form, planning, configurations etc. We simply start a design process that includes our clients in the conversation and ask what excites them about the project, and then we look to make it sing.

**Hallmarks of your work:** Architecture is mostly about people. I'd like to think we



work very hard and creatively to make architecture about people that commission the work. That is what makes every day different and fun.

**Style of working:** We aren't a practice that often says "here it is, finished". The design process is more of a communal process of setting up a discourse with our clients where no question is too silly, and we learn what is important to our clients. That is, anything can and is

Architect: Jeremy Smith  
Company: Irving Smith Jack Architects  
[www.isarchitects.nz](http://www.isarchitects.nz)

encouraged to be placed on the table, from other architects' work to hobbies, sketches, texts or just conversation. If it is important to our clients then let's talk about why. This is increasingly important as our work becomes further afield, and we have to learn about the specific needs of different communities and environments, be they urban or isolated landscapes. Listening is important.

**Favourite projects:** Thinking of architecture as a question is often a good way of finding what needs to be creatively solved. The answer often has to be found, and my favourite projects are often those where we have found answers in unusual or unsuspected places, be it notionally in a tent, shed, under a tree or just through a thought process that hasn't been considered. We like finding solutions.

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**Worst moments:** If it's not fun, don't do it.

**Designs you appreciate:** It is important to see and feel architecture, so I tell the family as we trundle off to see another building on our travels. It is amazing how architecture is often in hard-to-find places making the adventure all the better. Mies van der Rohe's 1929 Barcelona pavilion is still the most modern building I've ever been in and Ian Athfield's Fox Hansen House the most interesting in my corner of the world.

**Your own house?:** We live in a small 1960s modernist house in Nelson city, designed by Alex Bowman, which was unchanged until we arrived and upgraded bits and pieces and added a little more room by way of a 13th birthday present for our eldest daughter Bonita.

What would be your ultimate dream design?: I'll tell you when it arrives, but it isn't so much about the dream brief, site or budget, as the people and question in hand.

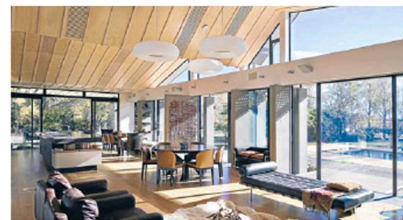
Jeremy's residential and public work has been widely published internationally and been rewarded with a string of awards including NZIA New Zealand architecture awards in public and residential categories; New Zealand's top timber design award; an invitation to present at the World Architecture Festival in Barcelona 2011, and Singapore in 2013 and 2014; commendation from the NZ Concrete Society; NZ Property Council Excellence Awards; and numerous NZIA local architecture awards and magazine awards.

He has widely lectured, served as a New Zealand Institute of Architects national councillor, been appointed to architecture awards juries at a national level, and was invited on the Super Jury at the World Architecture Festival in Singapore 2014.



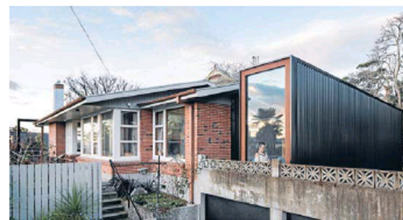
Tiltpanel house, Nelson 2009

Photo: PATRICK REYNOLDS



Mountain Range House, Brightwater 2010

Photo: PATRICK REYNOLDS



Bonita Room alteration, Nelson 2011

Photo: PATRICK REYNOLDS



Bach to view the sound, Pelorus Sounds 2011

Photo: PATRICK REYNOLDS



Bach with two roofs, Golden Bay, 2008

Photo: PAUL MCCREDIE



Oraha Bay bach, Queen Charlotte Sound  
Photo: PAUL MCCREDIE

## WHAT'S NEW

**PIE IN THE SKY:** Dad's Pies were the answer to the question back in 1981 when Eddie Grooten started selling them to peckish beachgoers at Auckland's Red Beach. Since then the company has grown and he has been joined in business by sons

Tom and Ben. Now the yummy pies can be bought nationwide and are even being sold overseas. They are also the pie of choice of airlines Emirates and Air New Zealand. With more than 20 flavours on offer, from the classic Kivi steak and cheese to the adventurous butter chicken



and even spinach and feta for the veggie lovers, Dad's Pies use prime NZ beef that is processed in its own butchery system so quality can be maintained. Most recently the family favourite has undergone a revamp with flash new packaging. Dad's Pies \$2.99 from Wild Bean Cafes and BP2GO outlets, Air New Zealand, leading supermarkets, New World, Pak'nSave and Nosh, The Mad Butcher and Four Square.



**HOWLING SUCCESS:** Mac's has bottled up two limited edition tap beers and added them to its permanent bottle range. Three Wolves is a mix of three hops from the US and New Zealand and is big on citrus and tropical notes with late hop additions to create a full flavoured pale ale. The Green Barret is a 5.4 per cent IPA made with Simcoe, Amarillo and Nelson Sauvin hops. Multiple dry hopping through the brewing process boosts the floral hop aroma and gives it a distinct taste. Both are available in 6-packs costing \$14.99 each

■ To submit a new product or service for this column send information to Belinda Kerr, The Dominion Post, level 7, Telecom Central, 42-52 Wills St, Wellington, 6011 or PO Box 3740, Wellington, 6140. Or email details to: [Belinda.Kerr@airfaxmedia.co.nz](mailto:Belinda.Kerr@airfaxmedia.co.nz)

## Latest House Values

### Lower Hutt

Suburbs	2 bdrm	3 bdrm	4 bdrm	5 bdrm
Normandale	\$338,000	\$390,000	\$456,000	\$520,000
Petone	\$359,000	\$451,000	\$525,000	\$561,000
Point Howard	-	\$589,000	\$668,500	-
Stokes Valley	\$218,000	\$277,000	\$328,000	\$374,000
Taita	\$228,000	\$247,000	\$275,500	-
Tirohanga	-	\$437,000	\$510,000	\$679,000
Waiwhetu	\$286,000	\$367,000	\$454,500	-
Waterloo	\$332,500	\$441,000	\$528,500	\$608,000
Woburn	\$332,000	\$372,000	\$423,000	\$418,000
York Bay	-	\$571,500	\$661,000	-

View the current median values for all Wellington suburbs at [qv.co.nz](http://qv.co.nz). Median suburb values are based on E-value, which calculates the estimated current market value for each residential property in the area using recent sales of nearby comparable properties.



Smart property decisions start here

