

A reputation built on innovation

Sue Russell

Over the past 40 years, Homestead Construction has built a successful and solid reputation designing and building homes and commercial buildings using precast concrete construction.

The company was born from one family's pure enthusiasm for producing innovative construction solutions with concrete. In recent years, Homestead has moved into the light commercial sector.

"It's about delivering innovative construction solutions with concrete. Our core focus is multi-unit residential, apartments, motels, aged care facilities, education centres, health care hubs and more," says owner Daniel Lawry, who has taken over the helm of the company from his father and founder Phillip Lawry.

When Business North Central spoke with Daniel, work on the Lyall Bay Surf Club headquarters in Wellington was 50 percent completed. Homestead also recently completed the Whataitai Papakainga Housing development on the Maori ancestral land at Evans Bay, Wellington.

Precast concrete wall construction has many benefits. It acts as a natural fire wall and noise barrier for intertenancy walls, requires less maintenance and is much faster to construct.

The company promotes early contractor involvement, assisting in the design and documentation stage. This ultimately saves the investor time and cost.

"We manage everything from feasibility, design and planning assistance, to precast concrete manufacturing and project management. Peace of mind I guess is right up there in terms of an advantage. A concrete building is going to last a long time. They have a solid feel about them with little or no long-term maintenance requirements. They are also warmer in winter and cooler in summer," Daniel says.

In 2008, Homestead ventured into new territory and tendered a larger home than normal – a 1600m² 5-star motel in Palmerston North for the nationwide motel chain – BK's Motor Lodge.

"During the tender process, the Homestead team also came up with a superior, more cost-effective method for building than what was originally designed," Daniel explains.

BK's owners Richard and Liz Ward were impressed with the success of this build and the benefits of precast concrete construction and selected Homestead to build another



MAIN: Homestead Construction completed the The Whataitai Papakainga Housing development on Maori ancestral land at Evans Bay. **RIGHT:** The BK Motor Lodge's Petone motel in 2012.

motel in Petone in 2012.

The company's reputation has steadily grown as word has quickly spread about Homestead Construction's capabilities to build multi-unit residential and light commercial buildings with concrete construction.

Homestead constructed two projects on the Kapiti Coast for investor Stuart Pritchard - the Clean Technology Apartment and Business Centre at Riverbank Road, Otaki and Lollipops Educare Centre at Ihakara St, Paraparaumu.



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“We are currently working through the planning stages for a number of large developments including a 70 room care home, medical centre, modern school facility and a number of apartment complexes,” Daniel says.

Homestead Construction built the Lollipops Educare Centre on Ihakara Street in Paraparaumu. RIGHT: An artist’s impression of the Lyall Bay surf club being built by Homestead Construction.

With plenty of work on their books and unprecedented demand for higher-density housing such as apartment and townhouse units in the region, Daniel says the decision to focus on these projects has come at the right time.

“There is a housing crisis and New Zealanders are embracing more and more living in multi-residential complexes. We intend to continue to grow our business to meet demand from this market.”

Homestead Construction services the lower North Island region, from Wellington, Kapiti through to the Manawatu.

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