

Dual skills a big advantage

► Sue Russell

When Kieran van Dorsten made the decision around the time of the GFC to upskill and add to his existing building qualifications with a diploma in quantity surveying, it was to better position himself in the industry.

“Once I completed this diploma, it gave me a very grounded understanding in the quantities/time frames components of great building. By then it was around the time of the Christchurch earthquakes, so we moved down there and I worked in the rebuild for about six years,” Kieran explains.

Following a stint overseas Kieran and wife Olivia had two locations in mind to settle in on their return to New Zealand – Christchurch, or Cambridge, where some family land presented opportunities. They chose the latter.

Kieran says Cambridge and surrounds is populated with very good developers and a council that encourages the opening up of new land for residential subdivisions.

While Kieran and Olivia form the nucleus of their business, Resibuilt, Kieran says a strength is that he engages great subbies for all the sub-trades involved in a new build or renovation.

Since establishing in Cambridge, Kieran and Olivia have built their own home in Leamington, where some lovely subdivisions have opened up, and in all, Kieran says he has completed 10-12 builds.

“At the moment we have three new builds, the most we have ever done at once, but they’re at various stages, which makes them manageable, two in Te Awamutu and one in Cambridge.



Resibuilt also offers a range of bespoke architectural plans available for viewing on their website.

“Technically, they are client builds, but they are spec builds for them. We’re undertaking some joint-venture work with them.”

The three current builds will be completed by May this year, but Kieran says 2025 is looking good. “We are currently in the process of designing three different builds for clients, one which we’ve just locked in for the design process this week. All, one-off, design and builds to suit the clients’ requirements, budget and time frames.”

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on their website. Kieran says having these plans can help facilitate the beginnings of a conversation, or give clients some inspiration as to what might work well for their particular setting.

“They’re not fixed as such, but just offer great inspiration. Being smaller, we were always thinking of ways to open up what we offer.”

When Kieran left school he went straight into an apprenticeship at age 16, so building has been his life’s work.

“With having QS and building skills the two

go hand in hand. As a builder, you acquire an eye for detail and you know what various forms of construction take. When I first started QS-ing for a commercial company it was a massive bonus to already read plans.”

Kieran says he really enjoys residential work, saying that when a home has been completed, there’s a great feeling attached to handing the keys over.

“When you’ve build your clients’ dream home it just carries so much value. We’re just a small company keen to do good for great clients.”





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