

04

Takaka HOUSE by Arthouse Architecture

• TAKAKA •

Jorgen Andersen has designed a thoughtful response to the rolling hills of this rural setting.

Words by Claire Ellery

Photography by John-Paul Pochin





01 The north-east elevation of this Takaka house.



Living too close to work is not a problem that most New Zealanders have – but architect Jorgen Andersen's clients did. They bought a rural site near Takaka, at the top of the South Island, just down the road from their farm. Their previous house was on the farm and they wanted to move a bit further away so that they would still be near, but not on, the farm.

The site is very generous at seven hectares, and there was a natural building platform at one edge of it that the clients imagined the new house would sit on. The clients' brother is a builder and he put them in contact with the team at Arthouse Architecture, having worked with them before on other projects.

The brief was for a contemporary rural house. The clients wanted a small, high-quality house that would be appropriate for the setting, with natural materials and an interesting roofline. The backdrop of the site is dramatic hillscape so the shape of the roofline was a considered response to these contours, says Andersen. The placement of the house on the site allows the clients to look out towards the north-east, over their land in the direction of more hills.

Being a farmhouse, the home needed to be able to work with the day-to-day realities of farming. For example, there is a daytime or mud entrance on the south-east side of the house. This entrance is tucked between the garage and the master bedroom and is where the clients can come in after work, or at lunch, and kick off their gumboots, clean up in the laundry and go through to the kitchen. There is a separate formal entry on the south-west side of the house.

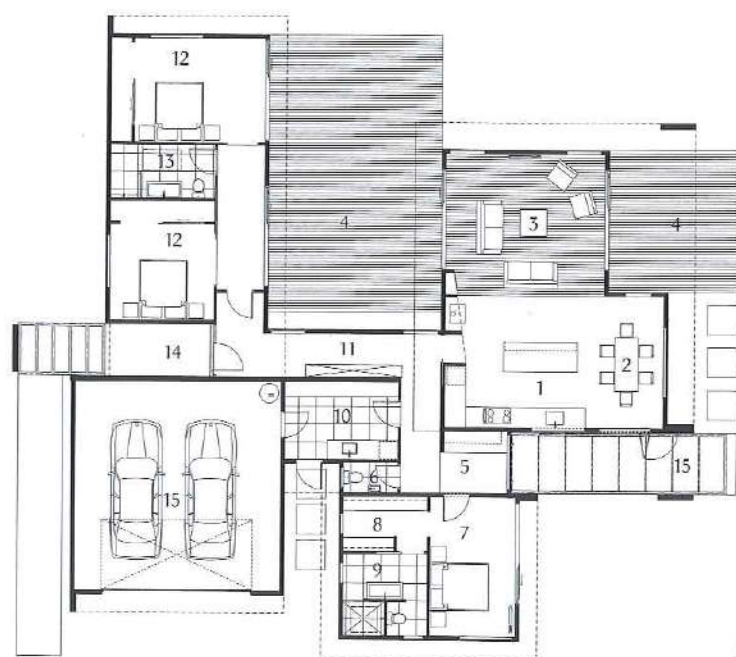
Andersen says the plan really celebrates the idea that there are three distinct forms to the house: a living module, sleeping area and a utility and guest area. These are linked by the flat roof in between them. Dividing the plan into three spaces this way means the clients can close off one section of the house when they are the only ones there. It also gives them the flexibility to open the spaces up when they have visitors. Two bedrooms and a bathroom comprise the guest wing.

A large deck area sits between the guest rooms and the living room – the U-shape that the plan creates around the deck provides shelter on the deck, and sliding doors in all the rooms mean that you can get easily from one part of the house to the other across the deck in nice weather. It is protected from the prevailing winds and still catches good sun. There needed to be areas where the clients could be outside at different times of the day so there is also a morning terrace with a pergola over it – off the kitchen. In this region when it gets hot, it is really hot, and when it rains, it really pours. Large eaves were designed to protect from all of the elements.

The clients wanted to use natural materials. This was part of their desire to build a structure that suited the site and the area. Andersen says that the clients were very trusting and let him focus on making the decisions that would get them the best result. The clients have reported that they are really enjoying the house, and have given Andersen the highest praise – they wouldn't change a thing.

Andersen listened carefully to the brief and in doing so made sure the house is warm, comfortable, functional and totally appropriate for the area. **H**

- 02 The open-plan kitchen and dining room.
- 03 The bold and bright entry door.



Floor plan

- 1 Kitchen
- 2 Dining
- 3 Living
- 4 Deck
- 5 Study
- 6 WC
- 7 Master bedroom
- 8 Walk-in wardrobe
- 9 Ensuite
- 10 Laundry/mudroom
- 11 Gallery
- 12 Bedroom
- 13 Guest bathroom
- 14 Entry
- 15 Garage





Practice

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Practice profile

Arthouse Architecture pride themselves on designing collaboratively with their clients and producing highly resolved and well-documented solutions, for projects of all scales.

Project team

Jorgen Andersen; Helena Glover

Consultants

Engineer: Craig Thelin, CDT Consultants

Builder: Frank Byrne

Products

External walls: Vertical shiplap cedar; Colorsteel®; masonry block

Internal walls: Gib®; Ecoply™; Villaboard®; masonry block

Flooring: Polished concrete; rimu; carpet; tiles

Ceiling: Gib®; Ecoply™; Villaboard®

Roofing: Colorsteel®; butynol

Kitchen: Stainless steel; Tasmanian blackwood bench tops

Lighting: Modus; Switch (LED); BEAT pendants by Tom Dixon

Time schedule

Design and planning:

23 months

Construction: 11 months

Project areas

Site size: 7 hectares

Building area: 235m²

04 The walkway to the entrance.