

Creating a French country farmhouse, Waiheke style

Debbie Yardley looks at a Waiheke renovation overseen by Waiheke architectural designer Bryce Ardern that has turned 'mock' Mediterranean into a cohesive and inviting home.

Sitting high on a ridgetop, Villa Cascata is today a warm and comfortable French country style home with incredible indoor and outdoor living spaces ideal for use all year round for enjoying

family meals, entertaining friends or just admiring the views.

The home is not new – it was built in the early 1990s but was transformed from a pinky beige mock Mediterranean building into its new form in 2010. From some angles you would not recognise it as the same home.

The step change from imposing to inviting was led by Ardern UDB, with Bryce Ardern responsible for the design and project management. He



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collaborated with Nadine at Storm Design, an interior design specialist who has teamed up with the Waiheke based architectural designer on previous award winning projects.

The home's living spaces were dramatically enhanced with the addition of a north and western facing alfresco lean-to with three different areas for summer and winter living. The position of the home above Onetangi Golf Course affords fabulous panoramic views but it is also exposed to the cold south westerly winds, so creating a new living area addition to the home was important for aesthetic reasons but also for flow and shelter.

The area can now be used all year round with stained operating bi-fold louvres allowing cool breezes and shade in the summer months and clear glass roof panels inviting sun into the inner areas of the living room.

This new area connects to the kitchen via a slab of macrocarpa as a servery and a family living area opens out through bi-fold doors.

