

PROJECT TIMBER

2025

Showcasing timber innovation and excellence
in New Zealand architecture and building

Rooted in the Landscape

A multi-award-winning Te Anau home that embraces its alpine surroundings through thoughtful design, durable timber finishes, and exceptional craftsmanship.



PREMIUM ARCHITECTURAL
& BUILDING SOLUTIONS

ISSUE 01

An Architectural Response to Nature

Designed by Fabric and built by Te Anau Homes Ltd, this 241sqm home has won multiple awards, including a Regional Category Win, National Top 100 recognition, and is a finalist in the 2025 Home Magazine Home of the Year awards. The residence is a testament to thoughtful design, material selection, and exceptional craftsmanship, sitting seamlessly within its alpine setting.

About the project

Perched on a rocky ridge overlooking Te Anau, the home was envisioned as an expansion of its surroundings. *“Composed of undulating blocks that alternate in contrasting materials, this home’s ridge-like form and simple material palette mimic the rock and native ground cover of the area, allowing it to sit comfortably within the dramatic setting,”* says Mitchell Coll from Fabric.

Inside, minimalist design and natural materials converge to create warm, light-filled living spaces. Timber plays a key role in shaping the home’s aesthetic, with Alaskan yellow cedar cladding blending seamlessly into the surroundings and purpleheart decking providing durability and elegance. The thoughtful selection of materials ensures that the home will evolve beautifully over time, with the cedar softening to a silver-grey patina and the purpleheart decking naturally silvering off under UV exposure.

The homeowners reflected on the collaboration: *“We are extremely pleased with it. We had such a fantastic team around us with the same vision as us, so it made it such a fun build. Doug’s workmanship was exceptional, and he was just fantastic to work with!”*



Design: Fabric

Build: Te Anau Homes Ltd

Project Photography: Stephen Goodenough
Photography & Douglas Thorne

Blending form & landscape

The home's design responds directly to its environment, with a form that reflects the surrounding alpine terrain. Its undulating composition and contrasting materials allow it to integrate effortlessly into the rocky ridge while maximising views of the surrounding lake and mountains. Large expanses of glazing capture the dramatic landscape without compromising the home's thermal efficiency.





Stephen Goodenough Photography



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Minimalist Interiors with a Focus on Comfort

Inside, the design reflects a balance of simplicity and functionality. Birch ply walls with negative detailing introduce texture and warmth, while polished concrete floors reflect light throughout the living spaces. Sustainability and comfort are prioritised with solar-powered underfloor heating, providing year-round warmth while complementing the minimalist design.



© Douglas Thorne



Functional Flow and Framed Views

The layout is designed for efficiency and seamless movement between indoor and outdoor spaces. Bedrooms and utilities are positioned to the left of the main entrance, while open-plan living spaces unfold to the right. The streamlined kitchen includes a feature window splashback with views to the south, offering a practical yet visually engaging design element. Outdoor living is equally prioritised, with expansive decking extending from the living areas to an outdoor spa and shower, providing a connection to the surrounding native flora.



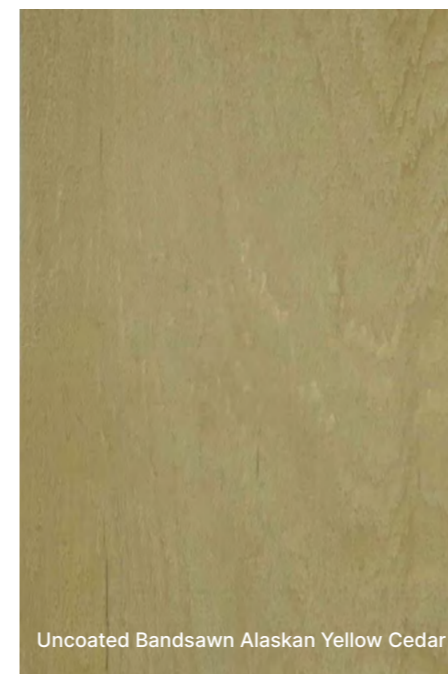
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Alaskan Yellow Cedar Cladding

The exterior's Alaskan Yellow Cedar cladding, using JSC profiles [APJ341](#), [APJ361](#), and [APJ381](#) and coated in Wood-X Endeavour, is integral to the home's seamless integration with its environment. Renowned for its natural durability, the Cedar was chosen for its ability to withstand the region's alpine conditions while also providing a warm, inviting aesthetic. The cladding's vertical random-width profile adds subtle texture and depth, allowing the façade to engage with natural light and shadow throughout the day.

Over time, the timber will transition gracefully from its golden hues to a soft silver-grey patina, enhancing the home's organic connection to the landscape. This evolution reflects not only the longevity of the material but also its ability to maintain structural integrity and visual appeal.

The homeowner's appreciation for this key design element is clear: *"We are definitely a fan of the Alaskan Yellow Cedar - it looks great!"*



Uncoated Bandsawn Alaskan Yellow Cedar

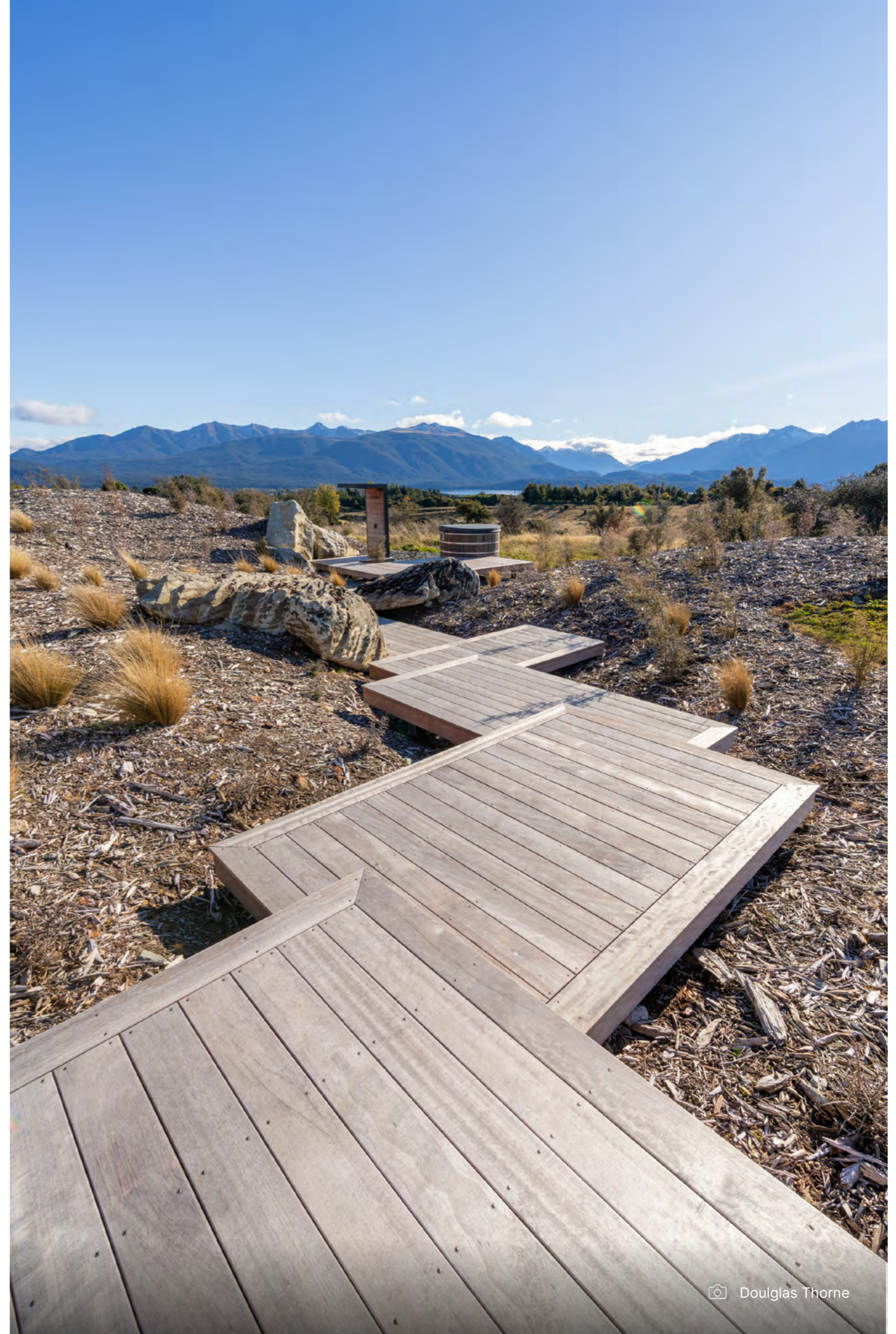


Purpleheart Decking

Extending from the interior living spaces to the surrounding outdoor areas, the Purpleheart decking showcases both resilience and timeless beauty. Known for its dense and durable properties, Purpleheart was selected to withstand the wear and tear of heavy use while providing an elegant connection between the home and its natural surroundings.

Although Purpleheart begins with vibrant purple tones, the decking at this residence has already silvered off with UV exposure, taking on a soft, weathered finish. This natural transformation enhances its ability to blend seamlessly into the rocky terrain and native flora.

Beyond aesthetics, the decking serves a practical function - providing expansive outdoor living spaces that link the home's main areas to features such as the spa and outdoor shower. The robust nature of purpleheart ensures these spaces remain both functional and beautiful for years to come, creating a platform for outdoor immersion and relaxation.



A Collaborative Build with Exceptional Craftsmanship



Stephen Goodenough Photography



Random Width Alaskan Yellow Cedar Cladding & Purpleheart Decking

Stephen Goodenough Photography



📷 Douglas Thorne



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