



# Project Timber.

AUGUST 2021 | COX STREET



# THE PROJECT

## COX STREET FAMILY HOME - CHRISTCHURCH

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A warm and inviting family home based in an affluent Christchurch neighbourhood that wraps around a centrally located reflection pond. The main aim of this forever family home was to set a welcoming scene for the owners with a neutral palette for them to express their design style over time whilst taking the Christchurch heritage into consideration.

The environmental context was a very important consideration in this neighbourhood of eclectic styles and ensuring the building's design features fit within the architectural heritage of Christchurch.

Architect Mitchell Coll was focused on keeping the strong white gabled forms of the Christchurch school style with crisp detailing and employed rusticated timber weatherboards to the gable ends to soften the masculine form and tie in with the neighbouring designs of the 1980s.

**Architect:** Coll Architecture

**Interior Design:** Lucy Wilkie Design

**Photography:** Goodenough Photography

**Builder:** Fuetz & Goldsmith Builders



## DESIGN FEATURES & CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

A fresh look at the overall property was to keep majority of the existing vegetation and landscaping on site including the large tree that is located at the front of the site near to the garage and this helps the home to fit within the already established street scene. The setback entry and promenade walkway provide privacy to the occupants and a

sense of formality for guests, while the side entry garage lessens the dominance of the garage door. In addition, a large amount of planting was done on the front boundary to avoid the need for a fence which generously shares the space and greenery to an otherwise enclosed street of the neighbourhood.



Upon entering the house, the low ceiling of the entryway creates an intimate experience and helps visitors focus their view to the central pond and beyond to the private garden.

As the sun moves across the pond, the dancing reflections move across the internal spaces creating a fluid, calm, and subdued atmosphere on the interior. Decorative louvres catch the light in different ways depending on the time of day and year, which allows for the ever changing intensity of the sunlight coming into the internal circulation space.

Juxtaposition awaits the occupants as they transition from the cozy entrance to the generous double height and dappled light filled foyer which links to the rest of the home. Beyond this is a welcoming flow through to the large open plan kitchen, dining and living rooms.

Coll Architecture worked in collaboration with interior designers Lucy Wilkie Design where they used a largely neutral palette for the interior to act as a canvas that allows the client to add their own individual style with furnishings and therefore have the ability to easily change the feel and fashion of the interior design over time.

As a family home with potentially high energy consumption, it was important to address energy efficiency inherently in the design. Careful detailing for thermal performance was incorporated, including the use of 140mm stud, studsavers and other performance detailing to reduce any thermal bridging.

“ For this project I chose Alaskan Yellow Cedar for the exterior cladding for its lighter, more even colour gradient, and high durability compared to Western Red. ”

Mitchell Coll



High quality thermal insulation and the careful placement of windows which allow for passive solar gain, while also limiting overheating on hot days combines with the passive stack ventilation of the double height foyer to moderate temperature fluctuations in the house.

A factor in the design was the reflectance of the light-coloured roofing and timber cladding, reducing the occurrence of overheating and lowering the long-term maintenance of the materials and therefore lowering the carbon footprint of the building.

It has been so exciting to see this build come to life and we cannot wait to see the next one!



# JSC Timber

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