

# The art and craft of building beautiful properties

Building work within the construction industry in Christchurch is keeping Brendan Hammond and his team super busy these days, as the company celebrates a decade in business.

Based in Kaiapoi, Brendan Hammond Building Contractors offers clients 30 years' combined experience in the building industry and a commitment to producing quality results.

A proud Cantabrian, Brendan joined the industry straight from school working for reputable building companies for 20 years. His previous employer he credits as "a great mentor" providing him with a lot of very worthwhile experience.

Armed with that, Brendan and wife Sonya decided to branch out on their own forming Brendan Hammond Building Contractors Ltd. Brendan is a Licensed Building Practitioner and member of NZ Certified Builders which gives his clients assurance about his skills and quality workmanship.

The company works across the building industry on new home building including architecturally-designed homes, and on light commercial construction such as shops, bars and commercial fitouts, as well as smaller projects such as house alterations, expansions and renovations. No job is too big or too small.

These days Brendan's team consists of eight qualified builders and one apprentice and an administrator, his wife Sonya, who runs that side of the business.

"We have experience working on many different types of home builds in Christchurch and Canterbury. We think it's really important to work closely with clients so that they know right from the start what the build will cost



This home is at Motonau, North Canterbury

"We strive to provide our clients with a quality job and to make the process stress-free for the owner as they are often making the largest investment of their lifetime."

- Brendan Hammond



Another Brendan Hammond built home in Turiwhaia Road, Kaiapoi

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Welles Street bar in central Christchurch

“One of the most important factors in the success of a business is to have staff and subcontractors working for you who are just as committed to produce a top result as you are,” Brendan says.

“We’ve got some great staff who’ve been with us for a long time and I’m proud and grateful to them for their skills and workmanship.”

One of the company’s big contracts, at present, is working on the construction and fitout of a new bar along The Terraces development, which is the Avon riverside entertainment and hospitality area that used to be known as ‘The Strip’ running along a part of Oxford Terrace between Cashel Street and Hereford Street in the heart of Christchurch.

“There’s a lot happening for our company in the construction industry. We have just finished working in Welles Street, a bar in the south of the city, near the Christchurch Polytechnic and also on an architecturally designed house in Marriner St, Sumner.

“Now we are working on a new bar that once used to be located on ‘The Strip,’” Brendan says. The company may also, this year be working on another bar in the Lichfield Street and High Street precinct, in the central city.

“These projects are very satisfying, working on the rebuild of parts of the central city,” he says.

“I think there may still be quite a lot of this work to come in Christchurch and we look forward to taking part in that.”

During the previous years, Brendan Hammond Building Contractors has worked on the refurbishment of One Good Horse restaurants at both the Avonhead and Parklands taverns and on the X-Golf facility in Avonhead, where golf machines simulate about 100 well-known golf courses around the world for those wanting to up their game.

It has also fitted out the Kellaway Bar and Whitfords Bar and Restaurant in the Woolston Club.

A lot of the work for the company comes from word of mouth, recommendations from previous bosses and from delivering quality workmanship earning the company other projects with the same client.

“We strive to provide our clients with a quality job and to make the process stress-free for the owner as they are often making the largest investment of their lifetime.”

Photographs provided courtesy of Michelle du Plooy  
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## Creating iconic designs

Building a new home can be a bit of a paper war, but Iconic Architecture’s mission is to fight those battles for you and make the whole process hassle-free.

Led by principal Andrew Toulson, the company, based in Fernside, near Rangiora, offers a wide range of design and other services associated with new buildings - either residential or light commercial.

Clients reap the benefits of Andrew’s 37 years of design, draughting and practical building experience. He has always endeavoured to offer both a quality service and an affordable price, and include full contract administration.

Starting a cadetship in 1980, Andrew worked for the Christchurch City Council as a draughtsman before branching out on his own in 1992. He followed that with a 10-year stint building residential homes, which has given him a practical appreciation of both how buildings are put together, and how rooms need to relate to each other in a practical way.

Andrew says it’s important to his business that the fee structure for clients remains reasonable.

“We do fixed priced contracts because our clients like to know from the start how much they will be paying and budget for that. It offers clients certainty and they appreciate that.”

Most clients have little idea of the costs and processes involved in building a new home. The costs of designing and obtaining building consents have risen with the increasing paperwork required by consenting authorities.

The company offers full contract administration as part of the design and draughting service, to take the pressure of dealing with local councils off clients.

These days with the wonderful world of the internet, a design business like Andrew’s works on projects from Auckland to Invercargill. The company has recently secured work on a residential development in Queenstown.

“We are able to do projects anywhere in New Zealand. That’s the beauty of the internet,” Andrew says.

Iconic Architecture has carefully built up strong relationships during the years with builders and developers, and much of its work comes through referrals from them.

In the last two years Iconic Architecture has added another string to its bow, designing light commercial buildings.

The Pegasus Medical Centre, in the new township of Pegasus north of Christchurch, is one such design. As a result of this successful project, Iconic Architecture will also be involved in an addition to the St Albans Medical Centre. Light commercial building design has been a steep learning curve, but well worth it, Andrew says.

The company has taken on small and large projects, from adding a bedroom to designing multi-storey units, and intends to keep doing that.

Andrew has employed two staff in the past five years to fulfil the work that has been flowing in.

Being a small company means clients deal with him, the principal, and the company can offer flexibility around clients’ needs, he says.

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