

Precast concrete construction experts

► Sue Russell

Daniel Lawry says one of the best decisions made back in the late 1980s was for Homestead Construction to concentrate on building using precast concrete.

Today, that decision has led the Levin-based family-owned company into establishing a reputation of excellence to deliver on all aspects of design and construction for residential and commercial builds, from the precast concrete structure through to the interior fit-out and landscaping.

“It was the smart thing to do at the time. A lot of new products were coming on the market and as my grandfather had worked in a pre-cast yard, you could say concrete, as a building material, is in our blood.”

Even today, Daniel says that when people step inside a concrete home they can feel a difference.

The use of this material into pre-cast form has extended well beyond single homes, to multi-apartment blocks and commercial projects.

“It’s an ideal building material for multi-unit projects, given it immediately creates a fire-rated wall and sound-proofing between one dwelling and the next.”

Homestead Construction has over 20 employees and engages with a diverse number of sub-contractors from the local community.

Asked why concrete is such a great material to build with, and precast concrete in particular, Daniel says its advantages come right through the building process but especially at the start because there are no hold-ups due to weather shortening the timeframe.

“It’s also the general longevity of a building constructed from pre-cast concrete walls. The low maintenance structures are what makes it so appealing for developers.”

When Business Central spoke with Daniel he said that the immediate future and well into 2021 was looking very positive, with a number of projects ahead, mainly focussed in the lower North Island.

Homestead Construction has been the head contractor for the 86 townhouses on a historic site in Island Bay, Wellington – the Erskine Development – has been underway since 2018 and despite the interruption of COVID-19, work has progressed well.

The last 15 units in the development – The Mews – was just getting underway early Octo-



The Erskine Development in Wellington. Homestead Construction has been the head contractor for the 86 town-house development.

ber. The three-level units have ground-floor garaging, living quarters above and bedrooms on the top-floor. Daniel says the site presented its fair share of challenges, given the relatively small area to construct in and the fact that many of the units in Erskine were already occupied.

“Getting the big machinery on to a small site was not easy and we had to be mindful of noise.”

“The design of the units works very well for the site. They blend in nicely with the existing landscape and reference to the existing Chapel building that has been restored.”

New Zealand home owners’ passion for living in apartment and multi-unit residences

means the future for Homestead Construction looks very positive.

“It’s definitely where the country is going as it takes up less land, and reduces the cost of housing to be more affordable, especially for entry-level owners.”

Homestead Construction has its own precast facility at its headquarters in Levin.

It means Daniel and the team have complete control over the timing and quality of the precast panels for each development.


While concrete itself hasn’t changed much over the years, Daniel says there is a strong emphasis within the company to manufacture it in the most environmentally friendly way

possible, creating highly sustainable buildings which will be around for generations to come.

“We also try to get involved in projects very early on and we can bring real value engineering to the table during the planning phase. With our combined expertise we know the most cost-effective and innovative way to build, which I think this is one of the key reasons we are sought after.”

And with an eye to the future, Daniel says his co-director brothers Jason and Reuben and himself have land set aside for future development projects.

“We also have our own civils side, with our own cranes and machinery, and we are at this time setting up a civil division to the company.”



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Designed by CoLab Architecture the Erskine housing development is located on the historic site of the former Erskine College at Island Bay, Wellington.



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