



First Time Right

After searching tirelessly for the perfect home, a family in Havelock North decided to build instead.

Words **Soraya Nicholas** Photography **Anneliese Hough**

LISA AND ANDY COLLINGS SPENT months looking for a house, but they either seemed to like the land or the home – never both! So after much deliberation, they revisited a section they had first seen a year ago, and made the decision to build. “We’d seen a house go to auction that we really liked, but we didn’t like that it was beside an orchard that we’d have no control over,” explains Lisa. “Our solution was to buy our own piece of land, then go to the council to look at the building plans.” The picturesque new section that they purchased has incredible views to Te Mata Peak, across Havelock North, and is well sited on a rural subdivision. Only a few minutes to the local village, it is

ideal for the couple, along with their children Daniel (11), Isla (4) and Jo-Jo (3), as well as Molly the dog.

After spending time studying the plans they liked, Lisa and Andy worked with an architectural designer, who recommended their builder. “We went to **Piper Construction Ltd** based on his recommendation, although we did put the plans out to tender with three other companies,” says Lisa. “After looking at a home he had built, and spending time with him, we decided that Sharn Piper was the best builder for us.” They could not be happier with the level of finishing and the final look of their house, which works perfectly for busy family life. The open-plan

ABOVE Lisa and Andy relax in one of their favourite spots. They love to light the fire and sit back with a glass of wine in hand under the covered entertaining area.

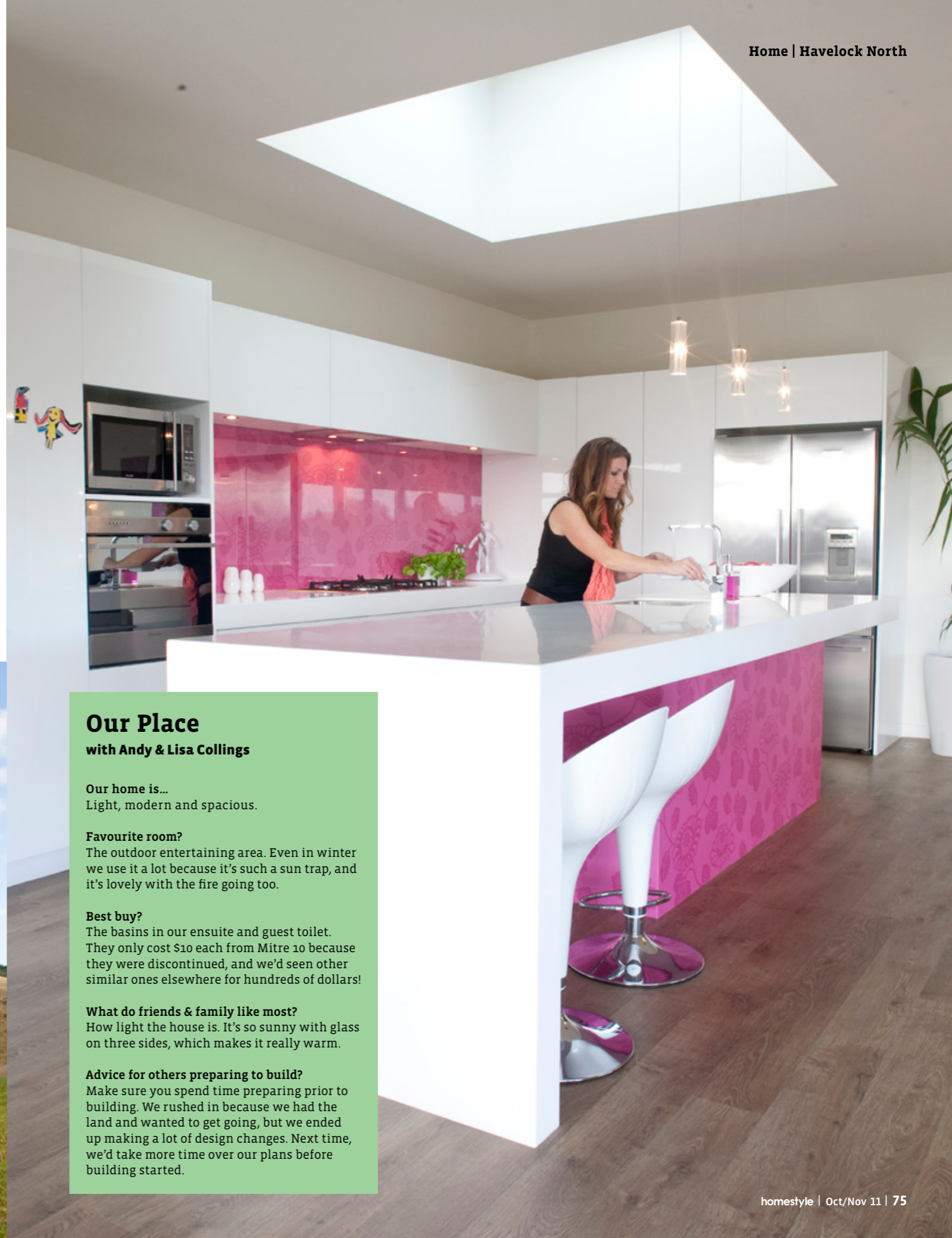
OPPOSITE Isla and Jo-Jo snuggle up in the living room, which features bold splashes of pink as the home’s primary accent colour.

style was particularly important for the Collings from a design perspective, as was having the master bedroom at one end of the house and the children’s rooms at the other.

To achieve the seamless exterior look that appealed to the Collings, Piper Construction were quick to recommend **Rockcote Advanced Construction**. Rockcote’s Integra Masonry panel was selected primarily for its impact



The property is only minutes from the local village, but boasts a distinctly rural setting. There are other homes nearby, but the large section allows the children plenty of room to explore.



Our Place

with Andy & Lisa Collings

Our home is...
Light, modern and spacious.

Favourite room?
The outdoor entertaining area. Even in winter we use it a lot because it's such a sun trap, and it's lovely with the fire going too.

Best buy?
The basins in our ensuite and guest toilet. They only cost \$10 each from Mitre 10 because they were discontinued, and we'd seen other similar ones elsewhere for hundreds of dollars!

What do friends & family like most?
How light the house is. It's so sunny with glass on three sides, which makes it really warm.

Advice for others preparing to build?
Make sure you spend time preparing prior to building. We rushed in because we had the land and wanted to get going, but we ended up making a lot of design changes. Next time, we'd take more time over our plans before building started.



ABOVE Isla matches the home's decor in her pink dress. **RIGHT** Lisa found the wallpaper for the master bedroom from Urban Abode, ordering it in from Europe. It contrasts with the Dulux Danniverke wall colour which was used throughout the house. **BELOW** Daniel enjoys some quiet time outside.



resistance and acoustic benefits. It was finished with the complete Rockcote plastering system, which includes fibre-glass reinforcing, window and door flashings, and Rockcote Mineral sponge texture and Resene X200 in colour Raven. Rockcote registered plasterers, Greenwood Plastering completed the plastering work, finishing it to their usual high standard.

When friends come to visit, they often ask Lisa how she managed to convince her husband to live with some much pink in the kitchen, but she insists he liked the idea from the start. "It's funny, because I'm not the sort of person to wear pink,

but we had red as an accent in our last home, and I wanted to do something different here," explains Lisa. "I had seen a similar kitchen with hot pink features on the cover of a magazine, so I was confident in the look I was creating." Lisa was very involved in the design of the kitchen, which was crafted and installed by **Molloy Joinery Ltd**. They used Arborform doors in Gloss White for the open-plan, galley style kitchen, to achieve the look the Collings sought. This created a smooth finish without PVC edging, and without compromising on durability. An acrylic bench was supplied, with Lisa sourcing Designers Guild pink wallpaper from



ABOVE Lisa felt that the main bathroom looked a little bland with white walls, so painted a feature wall in Resene Hullabaloo after the home had been completed. **ABOVE RIGHT** The ensuite bathroom has an elegant style, with a feature chandelier matching the one in the master bedroom and chocolate brown tiles.

the United Kingdom to place beneath the centre island and behind the glass splashback. As part of the aesthetic appearance of the kitchen, the sink in the centre bench was strategically centered beneath the large skylight, which is a feature Lisa loves.

The home's bathrooms are another area where the couple's love of colour was introduced, with a turquoise feature wall behind the bath in Dulux Hullabaloo. The freestanding oval bath by Englefield, supplied by **Steeles Plumbing & Bathroom Ltd**, is just one of the many bathroom fittings sourced from the company. There, Lisa and Andy chose Waterware Elisa shower mixers, wall mounted basin mixers

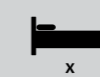


and shower slides, as well as an Aquatica Quadrato multi-function shower column and the Plumblime Ponsi freestanding bath filler. Steeles Plumbing & Bathroom Ltd also supplied the back to wall toilet suites with soft close seats, as well as Heirloom heated ladder towel rails and Forme-bathware Rembrandt accessories. Prior to all of the bathroomware being selected, Piper Construction engaged the services of **Advanced Plumbing Hawke's Bay**, and they worked tirelessly to complete all of the home's plumbing.

Despite loving their new house, Lisa and Andy like a challenge, and they are already keen to build again. "There's nothing we would necessarily change here, but it was a good challenge," says Lisa. The Collings family are keeping their eye out for another piece of land, confident that they could create another unique home all over again, if the right opportunity presented itself. ■

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