

Houses ripe for renovation

In this first of a series into renovating housing, we look at the reasons people are deciding to upgrade their existing dwellings rather than move.

BY BRUCE SEDCOLE, ANZIA, BRANZ TECHNICAL WRITER

IT HAS traditionally been a part of our New Zealand DNA to undertake additions and alterations to our existing homes. From minor dwelling alterations to extreme total makeovers, the draw of changing our own residential built environment has been irresistible.

Principles to smoother projects

When I graduated and began my architectural career, I worked in an architectural firm that had thrived in Wellington for almost a century. We undertook an exciting variety of projects, from multi-million dollar new commercial buildings right down to modest house alterations.

As a junior staff member, I did my fair share of so-called adds and alts. I learned to love this work and developed a healthy respect for the potential to change these homes and, with this, the lives of the occupants.

I still enjoy residential renovation projects, but they now range from still modest budget alterations to multi-million dollar upgrades

