



# Greener Pastures

## THE CASE STUDY

---

### PROJECT DETAILS

Location  
Katikati

Project Type  
New home build

Architectural Designer  
Ashby Architectural  
[www.ashbyarch.co.nz](http://www.ashbyarch.co.nz)

Builder  
Framed Builders

Paint Colour  
Resene® Suits

### FEATURED PRODUCTS

- Oblique™ Weatherboard

Designed to fit easily into a verdant landscape, this energy-efficient country home has simple lines and a low-maintenance exterior.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Alistair Niven and Carol Palmer transitioned from inner-city apartment living to the lifestyle block dream when they built a new home on a Katikati avocado orchard.

During a Covid lockdown in their Auckland apartment, while contemplating the boredom ahead, Alistair and Carol made a life-changing choice.

“Sitting on the deck one day, as all the days merged, we decided life was too short to allow a pandemic to control our lives, so we started looking for options,” says Alistair.

After weighing up various alternatives, they decided to look for a lifestyle block – preferably with an avocado orchard.

“I come from a farming background in Canterbury and Carol is from Hawke’s Bay, so it wasn’t going to be a big transition. We enjoyed avo on toast, knew there is a market supply shortage, and wanted a new challenge that wouldn’t risk the bank account.”

Covid lockdowns gave them plenty of time to hunt online for the ideal property. As soon as they were able to escape Auckland, they viewed and purchased an avocado orchard in the western Bay of Plenty town of Katikati. The property came with a cottage, which was promptly moved to make way for a new home.

Alistair and Carol engaged Ashby Architectural to design a home for their new country life. Their brief was for a contemporary, energy-efficient home with a lodge-style look. They also requested durable, low-maintenance cladding materials, because the new home would be sited in a high wind zone.

The architect recommended Oblique™ Weatherboard, because it can be used both vertically and horizontally - even on internal walls.



**OBLIQUE™ WEATHERBOARD**

Oblique™ Weatherboard comes in two widths and can be used in both horizontal and vertical applications enabling you to create a range of different looks and designs.



Hardie fibre cement claddings are cost-effective and can be painted a large variety of colours – including black. To complete the benefits list, Oblique™ Weatherboard comes in two board widths, opening the door to dynamic cladding design that uses both sizes.

Costing around \$1 million to build, the 250sqm two-bedroom home is designed for indoor-outdoor country life and having guests to stay. Two bedroom wings are separated by a generous open-plan kitchen/dining/living area that opens to a large deck. The exterior is painted with Resene® Suits, a dark grey that complements the matte Karaka Colorsteel® roof.

Alistair project-managed the build, then found a local job working for a carbon-neutral energy company. That fact that he and Carol live in an energy-efficient home fits perfectly with his new career path.



Ask James Hardie™ | 0800 808 868 | jameshardie.co.nz