



# COUNTRY CONVERSION

The clever conversion of an iron-clad shed in Raglan has created a surprisingly spacious home for a growing family.

Words Soraya Nicholas Photography Thomas Law



WHEN MATTHEW AND REBECCA TAGGART found a picturesque rural section in Raglan with a view to the Coast, it was love at first sight. The only problem was that they were not quite ready to build their “dream home”. The spot where they ultimately plan on building faces out to the nine acres of native bush that is part of their section, but for the interim, they decided a renovation was in order. A TotalSpan shed already on the site piqued their interest, and the renovation that ensued is testament to their creative vision from the beginning.

At the time they embarked upon the renovation, Rebecca was pregnant with youngest daughter Ruby (now 10 months) and Milla was not yet one year old. Perhaps that was what spurred builder Daniel Klinkenberg of **Urban Residential Developments Ltd** into gear! From start to finish, Daniel took only three months to complete the transformation, and finished on the exact day he had specified in the contract. “We were so impressed,” says Rebecca. “On the morning he finished, Daniel had cleaners in the house,

and when he passed us the keys that afternoon, everything was perfect.” The revamped shed is still classified as an auxiliary building, to comply with local council regulations, and with that classification came some restrictions. The living area could be no more than 70 square metres, plus three bedrooms and an office for Matthew. “There are some very clever design features,” says Rebecca. “For instance the roller door is still in place, kept high up and out of the way, but glass sliders in the same position really open the house up.”

One thing that has changed drastically behind the scenes of the dwelling is the level of insulation. It had to be warm and healthy for the family of four, and the insulation instantly made the home more energy efficient. Rebecca and Matthew were pleased that Daniel put in “as much insulation as possible,” as well as double glazing throughout. Another important part of the renovation was a new roof. The original was termed as a “shedding roof”, and the Taggarts wanted the safety of a residential grade alternative. To transform the shed into a home, extensive measures were taken, particularly across the front of the façade. “The whole face of the shed

changed, but we stuck with iron on the other sides.” Cedar cladding softens the exterior, and Kwila decking helped to create an outdoor room. This is where the Taggart family spend most of their time in summer, in the sun and looking out toward the native bush. The interior is very light and open, and belies the actual dimensions of the home. A mainly white colour selection keeps each room spacious, as does the high pitch of the ceilings. Resene colour Alabaster is the shade throughout the house, with the ceilings in Resene Rice Cake. A soft Tasmanian Oak floor also adds warmth, while keeping the feel light and airy.

**TOP & LEFT** The original façade of the shed was maintained on three sides, with the front being extended and opened to feel more like a classic country home. Cedar was the timber of choice, with opening shutters making the exterior living space more like a room. **ABOVE** Almost white colour Resene Alabaster was used throughout the house, for a neutral base to make the rooms appear as large as possible.

<b>THE SPECS</b>	Raglan \$200,000 - \$300,000 125 Sq m	1	3	1
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## OUR PLACE

with Matthew & Rebecca Taggart

### What do friends and family like most about your home?

When they first visit they are really surprised – it looks so tiny from the outside yet is actually quite spacious inside. Also, the ceiling is so high, and that’s not something anyone expects.

### Do you have a favourite room?

The open-plan living/kitchen area is a real favourite of ours, as it works so well for our family. In summer, the outdoor area is the favourite spot though, as we spend so much time outside – it’s like an outdoor room. We both have a background on yachts, so we were inspired by nautical-style built-in seating, and the shutters that open out reflect the beach atmosphere that we experienced.

### Favourite buy?

That’s a hard one . . . our most recent addition was a lovely piece of art in our bedroom for Mother’s Day!

### What could you not live without?

Underfloor heating in the bathroom.

### Advice to others preparing to build?

Find a builder that you can trust, and check both their references and building work before you decide to use them.

**TOP** Described as one of their favourite parts of the house, the undercover outdoor area is where the homeowners spend most of their time in summer.

**ABOVE** The landscape design includes two large planter boxes for a home vegetable garden, and they are both well utilised already. The house and garden sits on approximately one acre, with nine acres attached to the property in native bush.



**ABOVE** The kitchen cabinetry was designed to fulfil a modern brief, yet it still sits comfortably against the warm timber floor and rustic-look dining table.

**LEFT** The bathroom shares a similar style to the kitchen, with timber introduced alongside contemporary fittings and fixtures to create a warm, modern look.

Adding to the appeal of the interior is the simple yet stylish kitchen. Also drawing on a largely white theme, the kitchen features modern cupboard fronts, all in a seamless white gloss lacquer finish. Manufactured and installed by **Plain & Fancy Kitchens**, the joinery was all custom made to fit the allocated space. A Formica Panelyte benchtop was placed atop the cabinetry, in Pure White Gloss, further enhancing the interior design.

The home’s bathroom is also very modern, and features floor and wall tiles that fit the white theme. Placed by **Bateman Tiling Ltd**, the tiles were chosen equally for their good looks and hardwearing nature. For enhanced comfort in the colder months, underfloor heating was installed. The qualified tiling team also completed all

of the preparation and finishing work, which included waterproofing and even drilling holes in the tiles prior to final accessories being fitted.

Matthew and Rebecca feel that their renovation was an enjoyable, stress-free experience, and this was largely due to the clear communication between them and their builder. “Every Tuesday we met Daniel on-site, and he went over all aspects that needed our consideration. He really understood what we wanted to achieve, and he had great ideas when it came to the design.” And while they are thoroughly enjoying their converted shed, the Taggarts are looking forward to building their dream home in the near future. “This was a great step for us, and we are really proud of what we have achieved.” ■



BEFORE



AFTER



Cedar Corp  
Tasmanian Oak  
Flooring



Splashback in  
Resene Zomp



Resene Alabaster



Resene Rice Paper

## MATERIALS

**BEFORE & AFTER** The former shed was once part of a large paddock in which cows roamed, before it received a comprehensive make-over to transform it into a family home.

**FURNITURE** Found on Trade Me, this feature chair adds a contemporary feel with its modern patterned fabric.

**KITCHEN HERB BOX** In order to comply with local council regulations, a recess had to be in place between the windowsill and the kitchen bench. The result was a living herb garden, which fills the recess perfectly.

**FIRE** With its radiant design the Metro H.T series wood burner is great for heating open plan spaces. Finished in metallic black high temperature paint, with a cooktop surface, this fire is a great all rounder.

## DIRECTORY

**BUILDER**  
Urban Residential Developments Ltd  
0275 397 005  
[www.urbanrd.co.nz](http://www.urbanrd.co.nz)

**BATHROOMWARE**  
Michel Caesar  
[www.michelcesar.co.nz](http://www.michelcesar.co.nz)

**KITCHEN**  
Plain & Fancy Kitchens and Cabinets  
07 847 4563

**FIREPLACE**  
Metro Fires  
[www.metrofires.co.nz](http://www.metrofires.co.nz)

**FLOOR BOARDS**  
Cedar Corp  
0800 423 327  
[www.cedarcorp.co.nz](http://www.cedarcorp.co.nz)

**TILING**  
Brett Bateman Tiling  
0800 4 47688