

The Carterton Crier

February 2017

WHAT'S UP AND WHAT'S ON FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA



Detail from *Silence* by Rebekah Farrer

A house within a house

The bio-solar house is energy efficient and environmentally sustainable, inspired by Sonnenpark in Germany, a village of bio-solar houses which won the 2004 European village renewal prize for 'holistic and sustainable village development of excellent quality'.

Carterton residents Christine and Thomas visited Sonnenpark and stayed in a bio-solar house for a week. This was the incentive they needed to make their decision to build one here in rural Carterton.

Built by Andi Steinemann, all components have been imported from Germany, except for the untreated timber which was grown in New Zealand.

Everything is made from natural non-toxic products and the construction waste is minimal.

The concept is that it is a 'house within a house'. There is an air cavity

between inner and outer walls which connects to the conservatory. The warm air flows around the cavity and as this happens the inside of the house cannot lose heat.

The diffuse, open nature of the materials used allows moisture contained in the air to be transported out through the roof space. During a time of no solar gain, a log burner heats the air in the conservatory and provides hot water for domestic water and wall heating.

This house has a wonderful ambiance. Christine and Thomas are happy to share their experience.

This article is part of the Carterton Sustainable Home: Showcase and Tour as one of Project Wairarapa's Resilient Carterton workshops – see www.projectwairarapa.org.nz for more information.



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