

Flexible design in the High Performance House

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Designed by Salmond Architecture, the High Performance House is a perfect illustration of the Lifemark standards for accessibility and flexibility. These standards are all about allowing people to age in their houses, so what's good for people with disabilities, arthritis or an injury, is good for everybody.

“Future-proofing your home makes sense for everybody”, says Lifemark General Manager, Andrew Olsen. “Due to our aging population, people are looking for single-level, easy-to-live in homes. With increasing rates of disability and 25% of the population over the age of sixty-five, we need to be living in homes that have been designed to allow us to age, rather than forcing us to move into something else. The last thing we want is a home that reminds us we are getting old.”

The High Performance House, at the HIVE Home Innovation Village in Christchurch, was awarded five Lifemark stars.

Future proofing

What makes the High Performance House special, is in many ways impossible to see. Rather it is what is not there that is important - no sudden changes in floor height, no cramped awkward spaces, and no hard-to-reach cupboards, handles, or switches. The large wet-area bathroom includes a level-access 1.2m x 1.2 metre shower. The kitchen features drawers rather than cupboards ensuring items are not only stored away in a tidy manner but accessible and easy to locate.

Throughout the home all doors have lever-handles in place of knobs for easy grip, and all power-points and switches are in accessible locations.

One noticeable difference in the home is the 1.2m wide corridors, 300mm wider than standard. This, coupled with wide areas outside two of the bedrooms and bathroom, offers the homeowner additional space now, and in the future the opportunity to easily navigate around their own home in a wheelchair.



Flexible layout

The house was laid out to make the most efficient use of space, so corridors have been minimised, and instead designed to be used more like rooms, for example, as a laundry area.

Despite measuring only 100sqm the home has a large open-plan living area, which in conjunction with a generous deck, provides plenty of space for indoor and outdoor entertaining.

In addition, the home's modular design makes it versatile and flexible in meeting both site and needs. Each home is individually designed but uses a standard kit of parts. Homeowner can choose the number of bedrooms, number of storeys, cladding and roof form. The modular pavilions can be positioned into any shape that suits the site, and added to existing pavilions to expand the home if need be at a later date. The system allows the opportunity for homes to grow and adapt with changing family needs, sit sustainably on the site, and look unique and different for each project.



For more information:

- High Performance House www.warmframe.co.nz
- Lifemark www.lifemark.co.nz