

Big plus for fledgling business

A young Dutch couple, who established their architectural drafting and interior design company in Boucher Ave three years ago, have gained a measure of success in their first entry in a New Zealand competition.

Earlier this month, the annual Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ) Resene Design awards in Napier judged their entry among the finalists.

Maurice and Marije Regeer were delighted when their office (MnM Design) was named a Bay of Plenty regional finalist in the ADNZ Resene Colour awards, qualifying for the national finals.

Maurice had only joined the ADNZ last year and the office, adjacent to their home, was one completed project they were happy to enter.

"In Napier, MnM Design became a finalist, although not taking the award, it is a bloody good result for a small local design office, and good advertisement for Te Puke," said Maurice.

He had to submit a detailed plan about how they refurbished the office, which was an old schoolroom from Paeroa. He and Marije were so taken by the tongue-and-groove ceiling and walls, which was heart rimu, that they retained it rather than replace it, despite a few signs of borer.

Their office is behind their home and handy for the parents of two toddlers to be close by but clearly at work.

"Next year we hope to have

more projects to chose from," said Marije. "We have completed designs for a ski lodge at Ohakune and a new kindergarten building. But it takes a while for projects to be completed and all the landscaping done which shows off a building.

"Sometimes, you need photos from all seasons to really show it in its best light," she said.

They have found themselves getting busier as projects move through the planning process.

"We offer designs with a European flavour," said Maurice, "because we both studied in Holland and grew up and travelled in Europe. Clients say they want a small house but their idea of small isn't the same as ours. We grew up in apartments that were compact."

Maurice has a science degree and is an architectural technician. Marije completed a masters degree in architecture and a bachelor's degree in interior design but has not registered.

MnM Design offers a full range of drawing and designs for new homes and alterations, rural buildings, schools or commercial buildings.

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ON THE WAY: Maurice and Marije Regeer outside their MnM Design office which was a regional and national finalist in the annual Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ) Resene Design awards.

