

Small Living – the way of the future?

Brenda Kelly, Director of IQ Container Homes shares some insight into why small homes may just be the way of the future...



We are all aware NZ's population is on the rise and demand for housing is rocketing, pushing prices up and making home ownership beyond the reach for many NZers.

According to a study conducted for the 2014 Sustainable Housing Summit, NZ's dwelling size has grown over 40% in the last 30 years and we currently have one of the highest average sized dwellings in world with the average size of new homes exceeding 200m² compared with 76m² in the UK.

NZ's number of households is projected to increase to over 2 million in the next 10 years and with baby boomers entering retirement looking to downsize and couples holding off having children till later in life, households containing just one or two people are

projected to account for nearly all of this growth

"Our house size is increasing yet our family size is reducing – why are we still building McMansions???"

The recent Axis series small home test lab houses at Hobsonville Point have proven there's a significant market for small homes.

The Tiny House movement is taking off across the globe as people wake up to the realisation there is more to life than working stressful 80hr weeks to pay a mortgage.

"There's a lot to be said for living small. Overall build time and cost is lower, small homes are more efficient and cost effective to heat, there's less housework and maintenance,

fewer furnishings required and it helps one live within their means. Freeing up time and resources for the more important things in life."

In addition, consumers are waking up to the realisation that running costs need to be factored into the affordability of housing. With schemes like Homestar gaining traction, the building industry would be wise to consider investing a little more up front for superior insulation, energy and water efficient appliances, fixtures and fittings and the likes of solar power and rainwater harvesting to reduce long-term running costs and move with the market demand. Incorporating these features into small homes is a lot more practical and affordable than their big brother equivalents.

The IQ in IQ Container Homes stands for Innovative Quality. The company was founded out of a passion for small space design and energy efficient futureproof housing. With a strong sustainable focus for long term affordability IQ Container Homes are built in NZ and come with rainwater recycling and photovoltaic system as standard. Their Waitakere based display home has been appraised as on track for a 7 Homestar.

With efficient use of space a key feature, the company also offers innovative dual purpose furniture to complement their designs.



IQ CONTAINER HOMES

The Smart Solution



Suppliers of environmentally responsible small homes, granny flats, baches, sleepouts and units
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Prefab
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homestar
 Appraised

We are currently seeking nationwide quality builders and distributors for our homes
 If interested please contact brenda@iqcontainerhomes.co.nz to discuss this opportunity