



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
with Tim Goom

Landscaping your Bach



Owning a bach is quintessentially a kiwi dream and an iconic part of our culture. Generally, we don't aspire to own big grand holiday homes in New Zealand, rather we tend to want something simple where it's easy to totally unwind, without worrying about the work that the maintenance our family homes require.

Landscaping makes a huge impact in terms of how functional your bach is, especially as we tend to gravitate towards our bach's over the warm summer months, when outdoor living is at its peak. Even the most basic bach on the smallest site can

be transformed into something magical with clever design and enduring construction. The wider Goom family is lucky enough to have a bach in the sleepy fishing village of Motunau, and it was thrilling to put our passion for landscaping into practice there. The addition of a courtyard to capture the morning sun for our coffee and breakfast and then decking (and the all-important barbecue) positioned perfectly to watch the sun set and take in the sea views in the evening completely changed how we used the house.

Indoor/outdoor flow

The phrase indoor/outdoor flow may seem like a cliché lifted out of a real estate ad, but never is it more vital than at your bach. Having doors which open to connect your indoor and outdoor living is vital to maximise the enjoyment of the whole property. Ensuring your main outdoor space is positioned for optimal sun and shelter and is in easy distance of your indoor kitchen will enhance your enjoyment. As with our bach, considering how best to capture the sun and views and minimise wind, will dictate the positioning of your outdoor entertaining areas.



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Planting

Considering what to plant at your bach is crucial. Plants which are endemic to your region will be hardy growers with minimal input. Choosing the wrong kind of plants can become a liability which could necessitate visits to your bach solely to garden rather than relax, which defeats the purpose of owning a bach for many! Low maintenance planting is key to enhancing your enjoyment rather than creating more work. Irrigation with timers will be great investment at your bach but choosing plants which grow well in the environment is the first step. If your bach is coastal, agave, yucca, red hot poker and echium will all do well. Nikau palms and Pohutukawa will set the perfect kiwi summer scene. Less garden and more lawn will create less work and provide bigger spaces for entertaining and Christmas day cricket matches..

Lighting and paths

Outdoor summer entertaining usually stretches into the evening, so keeping family and friends safe as they enter the house or leave the property after dark with good lighting and clear pathways will be appreciated, especially after a few festive bubbles. Lighting doesn't need to break the bank, there are great solar options which can be perfectly situated without needing expensive wiring back to the house. Unobstructed pathways using paving, chip or concrete will clearly send visitors in the right direction.

Level areas

Summer holidays are a time for entertaining. Having level areas where an overflow of visitors can pitch tents or park camper vans and caravans to stay will be a great way to keep your bach from bursting at the seams trying to find beds inside.

I can't wait to head to our bach and relax in the company of friends and family after a busy year. Wherever you take your holidays, the team at Goom Landscapes wishes you a relaxing and happy Christmas break.

The champions of landscape design and build.

6 AWARDS - 2022



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