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A New Zealand homestead opens up to its magical landscape

Nick Hill Homestead by Warren and Mahoney is all about the magical natural landscape that surrounds it

Inspiration, escapism and design stems from around the world

Image: Nick Hill Homestead by Warren and Mahoney

Tall, rocky mountains, green, vast filled slopes and limestone rock formations leading across Lake Pearson, form a magical backdrop where a New Zealand homestead by Warren and Mahoney has been built. Nick Hill Homestead, a year-round home for two designers, is located in Canterbury's Tasman Valley in New Zealand's South Island, by Christchurch at a mountain equals Warren and Mahoney's Christchurch office.

The surrounding nature was a key driver in the design composition, explains W+M principal and project lead Jonathan Lister. The natural qualities of Nick Hill Ave being held aligned and the location was used as a film set for LA Lewis' fantasy novel series The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, the site, which is not literally on the hill meaning 'Nick' is absolutely connected to the scale and drama of the landscape.

Image: Nick Hill Homestead by Warren and Mahoney

The design is clean and modern, drawing on modernist principles mixed with references to the farmhouse found in the local region. Open to guests, the property was conceived to feel at home in the natural scenery, and features heavy, mainly timber cladding, with a 'weathered' look. The roof is fully enclosed in its site, and easily embedded into its geography.

'We wanted to create something that could provide guests a sense of safety and retreat from the mountainous elements while still being fully immersed in the dramatic scenery,' continues Lister. The simple pitched roof form is reference to the local farm sheds, and the use of timber and corrugated metal cladding and shade that dot the local landscape. It gives the building a sense of lightness and connection to the surrounding landscape, and, basically, it acts reference the vernacular of the 'single' of the Canterbury elsewhere.

Image: Nick Hill Homestead by Warren and Mahoney

A dramatic verandah that opens up to long, view becomes a central point in the design. Meanwhile, inside, raised concrete, Innovation Flooring and timber sides for a cozy yet contemporary interior. It is exactly the balance of comfort and sophistication that the client wanted, and, beyond a setting to inspire, are the property's managers, Andrew and Isabel Collins.

Nick Hill requires adventure and exploration due to the magnificence of the property. Being able to share our passion for our surroundings and offering guests adventures within the nature, where space is yours to embrace, is something we hold internal to ●

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