

Drawer connections

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Smooth silent movement, maximised access, function specific storage - drawer systems define the modern home.

We talk to two local designers about what they look for in functional hardware in the home and asked our leading suppliers for their latest innovations incorporating efficiencies and design in the kitchen, wardrobe and laundry.



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Natalie Du Bois talks Blum

What is it about Blum product that makes it so successful? JOINERS Magazine spoke to multiple award winning kitchen and bathroom designer Natalie Du Bois of Du Bois Design who has an in depth experience with Blum about why she has used so much of their product.

"I use a wide variety of different manufacturers but there are several reasons why I prefer to use Blum product." Natalie explains,

"The first that springs to mind are the people at Blum. I have found them to be very approachable and knowledgeable about their product. This is important to me as much as it is to my clients. I have also been lucky enough to have toured the Blum factory in Austria which is very impressive and came back to New Zealand with a wealth of knowledge regarding their products and the quality of their fittings. This knowledge is important when you are dealing with the top end of the market as I do – I need to know what I specify is good. Added to this is the flexibility of the range of hardware Blum have including the colours and finishes available - you have a pretty complete offer when it comes to design options."

Natalie points out that clients these days are better educated than in the past. "They know about soft close drawer systems and this feature has become the minimum requirement in drawer hardware. Electronic systems are where the market is now in terms of innovation such as the Blum Servo Drive system."

Like many designers Natalie deals with just a handful of cabinetmakers on a regular basis. "They get to understand how you work as a designer, your quality and detailing expectations on a regular basis. The cabinetmaker and designer relationship is



very important as this ensures the smooth running process of delivering the right end product to the client.

I specify all the materials and products in my design projects, as I need to make sure the quality is brought through into every aspect of the finished project. If a cabinetmaker constructs the cabinetry with a product I didn't specify they would not be getting a true Du Bois Design interior."

South African born Natalie started out as a trainee chef and that love of cooking has never left her. Has it influenced her thinking when designing kitchens? "I think so. The modern kitchen, often in an open plan, is there

for entertaining and of course cooking. Being into cooking has helped me better understand how the kitchen operates."

What about cupboards and the issue of storage? "Well I tend not to do cupboards below bench level, only drawers. They provide for more storage space and easier access to all things stored. Most are simply soft close although rubbish bins are usually fitted with electronic like Blum's Servo Drive for ease of operation. Where I do include above bench storage I tend to use Servo Drive for ease of access."



Du Bois Design

Natalie Du Bois qualified as an interior designer in Cape Town, South Africa where she worked until moving to London and then to New Zealand where she set up Du Bois Design in 2007.

She had already come to prominence back in 2000 when she won Young Designer for Kitchens in the UK. Since then she has added some twenty design awards here in New Zealand principally through the NKBA Awards, NZ House & Garden and Trends Media.

Her latest awards include the 2016 NKBA Colour Excellence Design Award and Designer Bathroom of the Year in the 2016 Trends International Design Awards. She was also a judge for the 2016 NZ House & Garden Interior of the Year. Her work has also featured on the cover of many international magazines.

As an international award winner, she has been keen on promoting NZ kitchen and bathroom design and served as a volunteer committee member of the NKBA for some five years. Her current speciality is kitchen and bathroom design in the high end residential market but also gets involved in full interior design of her client's homes.



For more information contact Natalie at Du Bois Design on 021 608 236, Natalie@duboisdesign.co.nz or visit www.howzz.co.nz/pro/nats/du-bois-design-td