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# Key to success



**TOP NOTCH:** Key Homes sales manager Mike Cook at the Gloucester Rd property.

PICTURE: JOHN BORREN 301006jb01

By **GRAHAM SKELLERN**

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A WELL built four-bedroom Papamoa brick home, with its own distinctive charm, has secured a national Registered Master Builders award.

The Western Bay region provided 16 of the 100 finalists and it was the Key Homes creation in the Tui Hana Mount Views subdivision that came up trumps.

Key Homes, which has been operating here and in the Hawke's Bay for 16 years, won the category for new homes under \$250,000.

The PlaceMakers national house of the year awards were handed out at the Sky City Convention Centre in Auckland Satur-

## is a good plan

day night. The winning 218sq m house in Gloucester Rd — finished a year ago — was made of light-coloured brick and a darker Color-steel roof.

The kitchen/dining, lounge and master bedroom opened up to a courtyard at the back featuring three black marble water fountains and a concrete patio patterned in diamond shapes.

"It's a nicely laid out, conventional home," said Key Homes sales manager Mike Cook.

The house is owned by a middle-aged couple who shifted from Palmerston North.

Mr Cook said "we are absolutely stoked about the award; it's so good to be recognised for what you do.

"I believe it came down to workmanship — that's a big thing with Master Builders and a big part of the (awards) scoring," said Mr Cook.

It was first time that Key Homes Tauranga had made the national final.

Mr Cook said the win would lift the company's profile. "We have found a niche in the market by building houses under \$250,000.

"When you add the costs of the section and carpets, drapes, paths, letterboxes and fancy tiling you are talking \$480,000 — and more of our clients are second home buyers.

"I think it's the best place to be in today's market," he said.

Key Homes, owned by Neil

Page (Tauranga) and Mike Cavell (Hastings), presently has 11 houses under construction and nine others ready to start.

The company employs up to six qualified builders and contracts specialist teams to complete the house framing, install the floor, roof and windows and supply the specially-design kitchen.

A renovated 1940s home in Karori, Wellington, was named the supreme house of the year. A Whakatane beachfront house built by John Fretwell Builders, won the category for new homes between \$350,000 — \$450,000.

The 100 national finalists were selected from 703 entries in 20 regional competitions held between June and August.