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New Zealand Registered Architects Board

Press Statement

No excuses now for false claims about house designers

The New Zealand Registered Architects Board today announced that a new online service means people selling second hand houses now have no excuse for falsely claiming that a house was designed by an architect as a way of racking up the price.

This comes with a new facility on the New Zealand Registered Architects Board website which lists former architects who are either retired, deceased or have left the profession.

NZRAB Chairman Ron Pynenburg commented “The NZRAB for years has been receiving complaints about real estate advertisements that name the person who designed the house as an architect when in fact he or she is no such thing. This can push up the price or create a false expectation about quality, which is unfair on buyers.

“One excuse for this false advertising has been that sellers can’t work out if the designers’ names on the plans or in the council records of older houses were or were not architects.

“That excuse is now gone. The NZRAB website now has a “Find a former architect” facility which lists the names of former architects back to 1964 when registration first became compulsory. This is in addition to the long-standing online New Zealand Architects Register which lists all current architects. Both can be viewed at www.nzrab.org.nz.

“Real estate agents, writers of advertising copy, newspapers and potential buyers can now instantly check if a person whose name is on a building’s plans or in the council records was or is an architect. Any excuse for pretending that a house with a few design features was designed by an architect is gone,” Mr Pynenburg concluded.

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