WRAPPING UP WARM

We've put our minds to everything you need to keep cosy this winter, from heat ventilation systems to outdoor fireplaces

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THIS PAGE Vintage Milo Baughman lounge chair, from Auckland's Mr Bigglesworthy, owner's own; Majestic velvet/linen **cushion** in Light Grey $68.90 and Stansborough **blanket** in Mid Grey (150cm x 200cm) $490, both from Allium; Tufenkian Hidden Path **rug** in Multi Colour POA from Cavit & Co; red deer **antler piece** $125, mother-in-law's tongue **plant** $19 and oval **planter pot** $48, all from Indie Home Collective; side table and all other items owner's own.

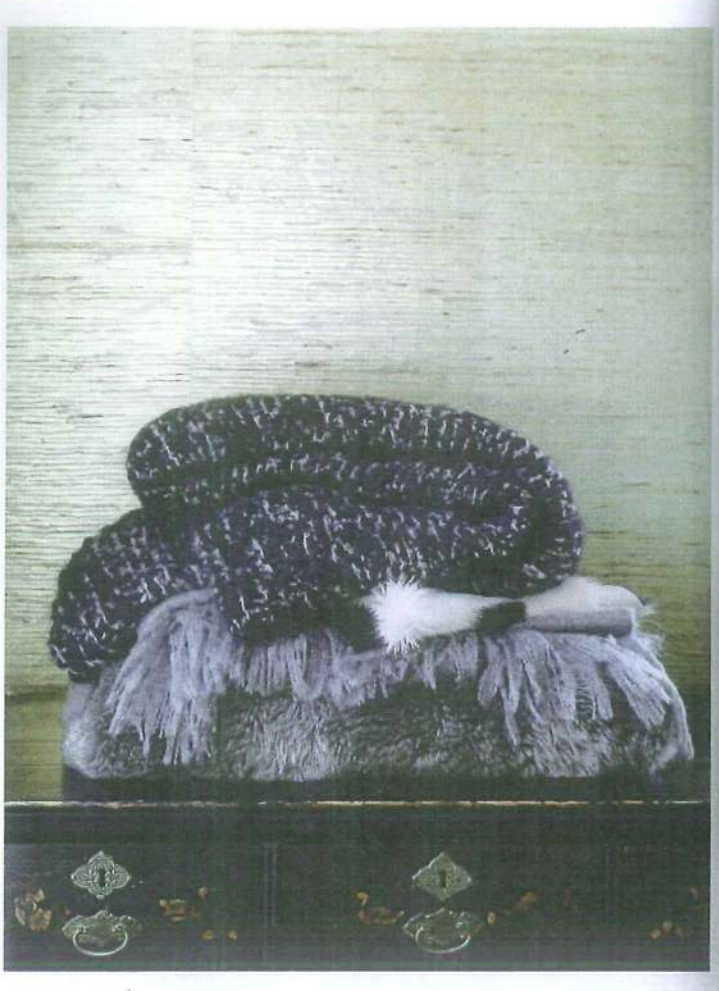
AN OPEN FIREPLACE has a timeless attraction – children and adults alike have always been drawn to dancing flames. But these days ideas about keeping a home toasty have moved far beyond the first smoky wood-burners and the Shacklock stove.

There are a myriad ways to warm rooms, from heat pumps and gas or wood fires to heat ventilation systems, but good design is a prerequisite. Passive solar gain is your greatest ally. That's easy to achieve in new buildings but also relevant when it comes to renovations and alterations. According to Niel de Jong of eBode sustainable homes, "Living areas should be oriented towards the north, relegating bathrooms, laundries, garaging and storage to the south."

So look for (or install) plenty of glazing to the north, to let the sun shine in, and thermal mass such as concrete floors to capture and store this free heat, plus superior insulation.

Matthew Cutler-Welsh, new build design manager for Homestar at the NZ Green Building Council, agrees with all of the above, plus he advises: "Upgrade your windows. Timber or uPVC (ultra-high-density polyvinyl chloride) frames are the best for maximising insulation and comfort. If using aluminium frames, make sure they're thermally broken (where an insulating strip is added between the interior and exterior frames), otherwise you'll be putting your nice double glazing into a really good conductor and undermining its performance."

Once you've sorted all these out, it's time to think about heating. Here's a closer look at some trends and technologies in the arena of home heating that should send Jack Frost packing.



ABOVE (from top) Meiz Chunky Knit **throw** $595 from Allium; small brown/white **cowhide** (hides from $225) from Trees Co; tassled grey **throw** $69 and silver grey faux fur **throw** (150cm x 180cm) $204.50, both from French Country.
BELOW With Mitsubishi's ComfortMaster Wi-Fi heat pump control you can access your heat pumps via your smartphone or web account to check or alter settings and switch pumps on or off remotely; exclusive to Mitsubishi Electric's Designer Series.

POWER IN YOUR HANDS

It had to happen – heat pumps that can be controlled remotely. So, if you're out for an unexpected after-work drink with friends, you can change the setting for the heat pump to turn on at a later time than pre-scheduled. Or perhaps the temperature suddenly drops while you're at work (has been known to happen). The ComfortMaster Wi-Fi Controller (right), exclusive to the Mitsubishi Designer Series, comes to the rescue. Using the internet or a special mobile phone app, you can turn on the heat pump before you get home so it's cosy as soon as you open the front door. The same app can be used to monitor a minimum temperature setting. That's useful for kids' bedrooms, where the heat pump will automatically turn on to maintain a comfortable, healthy environment for little snoozers. Now all we need is a Wi-Fi-controlled app that allows us to reset our better half to make dinner at a time to suit. >

ABOVE The imposing but unfussy look of the fireplace in this Auckland home would work well with a range of interior styles; it was hand-carved in Oamaru limestone by trained restoration carver Mark Whyman for the Natural Stone Fireplace Company and given an aged patina; inspired by an 18th century French style.
BOTTOM RIGHT Bedlinen: Bedouin Societe **flat sheet** in Sea Storm and Bedouin Societe **flat sheet** in Peat Brown, both $399 from Indie Home Collective; Vida by Seneca linen **Oxford pillowcase** in Grape $99 and Designers Guild Leopold wool **throw** $745, both from Allium; by the bed: hand-felted **coaster** $19.90 (for set of six) from Trees Co; William Yeoward **tumbler** in Amethyst $105 from Cavit & Co; all other items owner's own.

POSITIVE PRESSURE

You've no doubt heard about HRV, the home-ventilation company started by two blokes from West Auckland 10 years ago. It wasn't a new concept but they made it one that appealed to the Kiwi market. Using positive pressure airflow, HRV helps our dwellings "breathe" better and transfers any available heat collected from the roof cavity to other parts of the home.

Now that concept has been taken one step further. An add-on feature called a heat-transfer system uses a large fan and a ducting system to take latent heat from the ceilings of rooms that are heated by an appliance such as a heat pump to push it to other areas of the house. It's efficient and so much nicer than having to get your PJs on in the living room then dive quickly under the covers because the bedrooms at the other end of the house are so cold. Want to know more about how this system works in practice? Look out for the Pure Environment Project, where a Ponsonby villa has been renovated for super energy efficiency (to be auctioned 18 May). Visit hrvhouse.co.nz for more information.

ALL ABOUT FACE

Once you've decided whether you'll opt for a gas, wood-burning or electric fireplace, the decisions are by no means over. Just as make-up makes the most of your looks, fuel beds, mantelpieces and surrounds all enhance the beauty of the flame.

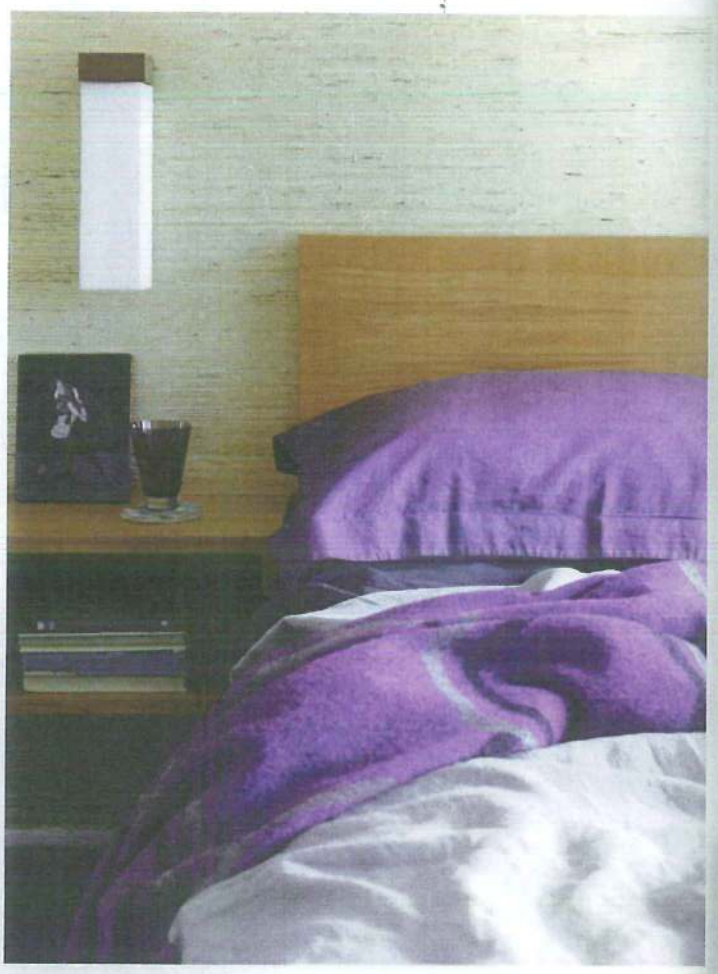
Frames for wall-inserted fires come in stone or schist (popular in the South Island), steel, solid timber, stainless steel, coloured steel and glass. They can be placed vertically or, in more compact spaces, horizontally.

Fuel beds can consist of logs or twigs (for those who like character) or be more streamlined, such as white, black or even coloured pebble-like stones from which the flames emerge directly – a look suited to more contemporary styling.

Handcrafted stone fire surrounds are like a work of art, bringing a unique focal point to a room. The Natural Stone Fireplace Company can carve any design. Bring them a photograph of a fireplace you have loved and they can recreate it – or think up an entirely new design that has personal meaning and it can be etched into the surround for posterity.

The thorough approach

Putting in a fireplace is a relatively large undertaking so, rather than just choosing a model from a showroom, the best companies insist on an on-site visit so they can identify any factors you may not have considered. >



ABOVE TOP Tufenkian **rug** in Teal/Khaki POA from Cavit & Co; reindeer **hide** $720 from Trees Co; on shelves at left: (upper shelf) Hamret copper **bowl** $14.90, (middle shelf) Dean Flowers cylinder **vase** in Teal $59 and (bottom shelf) Henry Dean **bowl** in Moss $260, all from Corso de' Fiori; on floor: Corfu stone **platter** in Taupe $135 from Allium; refurbished vintage wood-burner and all other items owner's own. ABOVE The New Zealand-made Warmington Studio Oven, designed by Peter Haythornthwaite, would suit both contemporary and traditional interiors; its upright design makes cooking and wood loading easy and there are wetback options; available from Fires by Design.

FANNING THE FLAMES

There's nothing like a flickering flame to warm the cockles when it's cold outside. You can take your pick of inflammatory products, from wood-burners to gas and electric "fires" but, before you decide, here's what you need to know:

As part of a national drive to improve the standard of our outdoor air quality, since September 2005 new rules have come into play that mean homeowners are unable to install a open fireplace or unapproved wood-burner on properties of less than 2ha. Some councils have also introduced bylaws that affect the use of existing indoor open fires. From May 2015, for example, homeowners in Rotorua may not use their existing open fires – they may keep the fireplace intact, but can't light it.

The future for urban and suburban dwellers is not all gas, however. If you still crave the natural appeal of logs, specially designed and approved-model wood-burners are the answer. The Stovax Riva Studio range from The Fireplace is perfect for city slickers and the Size 2 model (top right) is clean-air-approved, which means it gets the green tick from the Ministry of the Environment. Another example is the Warmington Studio wood-burner (below left) from Fires by Design. Peter Haythornthwaite, one of New Zealand's most respected industrial designers, is responsible for its no-nonsense looks. Its simplicity is its strength.

If you live in an apartment or a compact home, you may want to bypass all the hassle of consent. Electric fires, such as the Studio 2 by Gazco from The Fireplace, are a wall-mounted alternative. At 1-2kW, they don't have the same heat output of, say, a wood-burner (around 16kW) but they feature digital flames, the look of which can be controlled at the touch of a button.

CHOOSE YOUR FLUE

Although balanced flue technology for gas fires has been around since the 1980s, many consumers still aren't familiar with the difference between balanced and conventional flues. Most fires draw air from the room they are in. The oxygen feeds the fire to keep it burning and the resulting emissions are transported safely out of the home via a flue (vertical metal pipe) up the chimney. The system relies on the natural laws of physics (ie, the lighter, warmer air from the burnt gas rises).

In a balanced flue, however, the fireplace is a sealed unit that cannot draw air from the room. Instead it receives oxygen via a flue connected to the outdoors. A second inner flue then removes the combustion gases to the exterior to ensure the integrity of the interior air quality isn't compromised.

One fireplace that features the balanced flue, mounted either horizontally or vertically, is the Gazco Riva 2 530, available from The Fireplace. This model can be located at ground level, with the option of a mantel and hearth, or inserted into a wall, so that it's at eye level when you're seated. >

ABOVE The clean-air-approved, Stovax Riva Studio 2 has a 12kW-18kW capacity that produces low emissions with a high 66 per cent efficiency (less heat going up the chimney, more delivered to you); air-wash air flow helps keep the large window clean, allowing you to enjoy those dancing flames; available in a range of frames from The Fireplace.

LEFT This in-built Stovax Riva Studio 3 was recently installed (indoors) at the Omaha Community Centre, surrounded by a limestone feature wall designed for storing the wood; it's the top-of-the-range Stovax fire, with 18kW capacity; available from The Fireplace.

Wood and gas fires for a cosy winter inside

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TAKE IT OUTDOORS

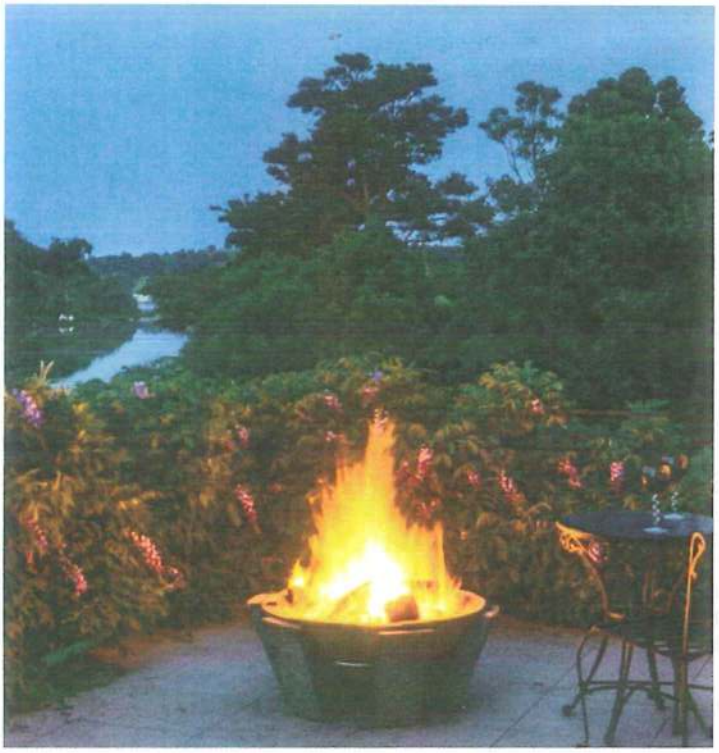
Kiwis love living their lives alfresco, so winter tends to stunt our style. No wonder there's a big shift to outdoor fireplaces. And we're not talking about those gas burners so many cafes use on the pavement. These are wood-burning or gas fires with real grunt that can be cooked on and have aesthetic appeal in spades. Here are a few we came across:

For those with a hankering to have more than meat on the menu, the new wood-burning Warmington Nouveau Pizzeria, from Fires by Design, features an optional pizza oven at the top of the firebox. So it does triple duty as a source of heat, a barbecue and a perfect pizza-maker. Just add opera to go.

Handcrafted in New Zealand, the Fogata outdoor fire pit (below) from The Fireplace is made of heat-resistant concrete. It's rustic rather than refined but its beauty lies in its rough-and-ready nature. Invest in the optional grill top and you can capture the nostalgia of impromptu barbecues on the beach.

If you live in a dense urban environment or even an apartment and think you have no room for an outdoor fireplace, you'd be wrong. Because they don't require a chimney, flueless gas models are perfect for smaller gardens, patios or decks. A bonus of having no flue is that all the heat comes out to you, rather than disappearing up the chimney. The stainless-steel Warmington Nouveau Flueless gas fire (right and opposite bottom), from Fires by Design, gives you and yours another place to gather.

If you can't decide on whether you have more need of a fireplace indoors or out, don't! The Through Wall 1200mm Minimal, in a range by Real Fires, combines sleek styling, remote-control operation and, best of all, it's double-sided. Inserted into a wall that links to the exterior, you can enjoy its good looks in the living room and the back courtyard. ■



ABOVE As the name suggests, the Nouveau Flueless outdoor fire requires no flue, making it ideal for smaller outdoor spaces; designed and made in New Zealand in stainless steel, it's available in sizes from 900mm to 1500mm from Fires by Design.
LEFT The Fogata outdoor fire pit is handcrafted using heat-resistant concrete; it's easy to assemble and portable so you can move it from the deck to the pool on an alfresco whim; available with optional barbecue grill from The Fireplace.

CONTACTS

Allium	alliuminteriors.co.nz
Cavit & Co	cavitco.com
Corso de' Fiori	corso.co.nz
Fires by Design	firesbydesign.co.nz
French Country	frenchcountry.co.nz
Indie Home Collective	(09) 524 6971
Living Flame	livingflame.co.nz
Mitsubishi Electric	mitsubishi-electric.co.nz
Natural Stone Fireplace Co	naturalstonefireplace.co.nz
Real Fires	realfires.co.nz
The Fireplace	the fireplace.co.nz
Trees Co	treesfurniture.co.nz

LEFT Another eco-friendly option is a bio-ethanol fire that burns an all-natural fuel made from plant-based material – sustainable, clean-burning, fuel-efficient and simple to use. Here two 48-burner Bio Flame fires have been installed end to end; available from Living Flame.

BELOW Christchurch's Morgan Pollard Landscapes designed this pergola setting for the Nouveau Flueless gas fire (see also opposite). Natural materials, outdoor lounge furniture and room-like proportions help to reinforce the sense of cosy intimacy.

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