



Photographer: Paul McCredie

## FORM THAT DOESN'T CONFORM

**Architect Uche Isichei designed this radical Wellington house for one of the team at Weta Digital and his wife. While Isichei started the project using traditional architectural models, the client's passion for technology led to Isichei adopting Graphisoft's ArchiCAD software.**

**Wellington, 15 September – Architecture in the Wellington suburb of Seatoun has traditionally been quite conservative, which didn't sit well with the creative couple that commissioned Uche Isichei to design their new home. Isichei's groundbreaking design has turned quite a few heads locally, even gracing the pages of the autumn edition of Houses NZ.**

In the initial stages of the design, Isichei remembers being impressed by his clients' ingenuity. *"We would have meetings to consult over the design and he would turn up with his own little animations made from movie modelling software. It wasn't long before my manual models began to look a little luddite and I cast them aside in favour of building information models,"* says Isichei.

Isichei originally started using a competitor product but switched to ArchiCAD software for the rendering benefits. *"It was really helpful being able to create working drawings straight from the information model. Whereas from a manual model, if there were major changes, I would need to start again, but in ArchiCAD, I can just make the changes as I go,"* he says.

Change is what Isichei's Seatoun project is all about. The building operates on a much more adventurous level than other houses in the neighbourhood. It actually looks like someone had fun designing it – the view-capturing towers at either end of the house, the changes in level and volume and the intriguing ramp on the second level that makes exploration irresistible. It is, as Houses NZ describes it, a restless design – definitely meant for use, especially by scurrying children and the young at heart.

### About Uche Isichei Architects

Uche Isichei Architects are a small design-oriented architectural practice committed to creating fantastic living and working spaces that enhance the lives of their clients. Their projects are designed responsibly using ecologically sustainable materials and green design strategies like passive solar heating.