

Felder quiet & accurate

It's a joinery shop that has the Italian Rowing 8's racing boat from the 1978 World Championships suspended from the workshop ceiling.

But this glorious piece of craftsmanship – raced on Lake Karapiro – isn't all that make Dunedin's JP's Quality Kitchens unique. The fact that the workshop is in the old General Stores building adds a historical flavour, as does knowing the building once housed a recuperating elephant. The stunning New York-style loft conversions above add a touch of glamour to the premises, which are right in the middle of Dunedin's CBD. Usually you'd expect noise to preclude a joinery workshop from operating amidst cafes and retail stores, but with care and good planning owner John Peddie has managed to create an ideal work-life balance: work downstairs, with the family's loft apartment above.

JP Quality Kitchens' workshop is set back and inside the heavy brick building, and careful renovation along with quiet machinery means John has no problem with his neighbours. His most recent purchase – a Felder D951 thicknesser with silent-POWER cutterblock has taken care of that. "Our old 20 inch thicknesser used to scream" says John. "You could hear it from down the street, and I was very aware that as this area developed then noise would become an issue. But now, problem solved. My dust extractor is louder than my new thicknesser – I can barely tell the Felder is running."

John and his team produce solid wood furniture, including a lot of heavy table-tops, so a quality finish was an important consideration when choosing a thicknesser. "I use a lot of console-grade timber – customers like the character you can see in the wood" he says. "But I'd spend an age running slowly

with the machine shaking around on the floor, and I used to get a lot of blow-out. With the Felder I use a slow feed speed and take a little off at a time. I'm getting a far better result." The D951 came equipped with powered rise and fall, including fine adjustment and a digital readout. "Having such exact control of the rise and fall means I'm confident in the sizing too" says John.

When he's not making kitchens or furniture, or undertaking house-lots of joinery, John has his own properties to work on. "It's a nice mix to work for customers and for myself," he says. "It means that there's no downtime for the workshop, because if we're not busy for a client then we have our own work to do." Much of this work is on display in the loft apartments above. Evidence of John's workmanship is everywhere, from the furniture to the panelled walls to the huge, carefully renovated lift apparatus that dominates the ceiling space above the kitchen in his AirBnB loft rental.

All of John's work is bespoke, and word of mouth brings in a lot of his customers. "I enjoy creating something within a client's budget, whatever that budget is" he says. But working on one-off projects all the time makes it harder to work efficiently, because every job needs time spent on design, set-up, tooling etc. It was his need to be flexible that led John to upgrade to a Felder FB710 bandsaw.

"For some of the outdoor furniture I was making, it was taking up to 10 hours with a circular saw, a skill saw and a handsaw, because of the heavy timber I use," John says. "With the Felder FB710 I'm doing the same work in 40 minutes. It's got a massive cut, and the 5.5kW motor gives plenty of grunt to get through these chunky beams." John also added the optional flip up tables for extra workpiece support. When combined with the Felder's braked motor and comprehensive guarding then the FB710 is a very safe machine



John Peddie with the Felder FB710 bandsaw and Felder D951 thicknesser.



to use. And safety is no small consideration for John and his team, not least because WorkSafe are about to move in to offices just around the corner.

With a bustling central-city location that speaks of individuality and flair, JP Quality Kitchens are a modern and fresh take on a traditional joinery shop. Sensible investments in premises and quality machinery support their varied work, and John's style is in demand on projects across Dunedin. But what's most

apparent from his quirky working environment and unique style is that John Peddie really enjoys what he does for a living, and his customers appreciate the distinctive joinery that he and his team are creating.



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