



Scott Wilkins (right) with foreman Murray Carling, and their new Weinig Cube.

## time saving big plus with cube

***Classical Doors are on a similar trajectory to Tauranga in general: up. With areas such as Papamoa growing fast, house prices rising quickly and those who are not moving houses investing in renovations, so business is booming for the Classical Doors team.***

The company already has a strong list of clients and plenty of repeat business. A smart new website, introduced and overseen by Managing Director Scott Wilkins, has increased their profile, and the number of enquiries. Combine this profile with a reputation for excellence and Tauranga's busy construction market and you can see why Classical Doors are so busy. Doors make up around 70% of their output – with the remainder being windows, and their reputation brings this work in from across New Zealand.

Three years ago there were two staff in the workshop, whereas today there are seven, and Foreman Murray Carling is looking for more.

“We like to train our own staff” says Murray. “All the workshop staff are qualified joiners or boat-builders, and we take on apprentices as we can. Some of the jobs we get – particularly where we have to match or replicate historical doors – require a high level of skill and detail, so craftsmanship is crucial. We do a lot of training in-house, and bringing apprentices through is a key part of developing the skills in the business.”

As well as investing in new staff, Classical Doors have also been investing in improving the efficiency of their workshop processes. The latest addition to the workshop is a Weinig Cube. From German solid-timber specialists Weinig, the Cube is a four side planer with simple push-button operation, laser guidance, replaceable knives and capable of producing precise 90° right-angled, dimensionally accurate, straight workpieces in a single pass.

“The arguments for time savings were pretty convincing” says Murray, “and entirely true.

Handling time has dropped massively. Before the Cube, preparing a house-lot of doors used to take well over a day, but now we can turn a job like that around in just under an hour, and with an excellent finish.” With many of the jobs at Classical Doors using high-value timber – French oak was in use in the workshop at the time of visiting – getting an excellent finish while minimising waste is an important factor.

With a touchscreen to set dimensions, laser guidance on the infeed table to show what the finished size will be, the Weinig Cube is simple, efficient, and fast. “It’s also idiot-proof” says Murray. “Safety sensors warn about oversized workpieces. Blade changes are simple. And it’s easy to maintain too – the user manual guides you through the regular maintenance required – which I do around once a month.”

Styles of door come and go, so keeping up with trends is part of the planning at Classical Doors. “Barn doors are the style of the moment” says Scott, “and we’re

making a lot of them.” Murray and the workshop team also need to keep up with changing hardware technologies, which are often integral to a new door style.

Classical Door’s investment in the Weinig Cube has proved a success, with the machine quickly contributing to the workshop’s efficiency. So it’s no surprise that soon the Weinig won’t be the latest machine on the floor. As part of their continued growth, Classical Doors will soon be expanding their workshop space into an adjacent building to accommodate their latest purchase – one of the Felder Group’s flagship pod and rail CNC machines: a Format-4 H200. With its speed, flexibility and precision, the H200 takes door production to a whole new level of production – a level that the team at Classical Doors are certainly ready for.



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