



COM WITH A VIEW: Rosalie and Willie Still in the shell of their new penthouse apartment on the top of New Plymouth's Kings Building. The Stills are keen advocates of inner-city living, saying their apartment offers security and no lawns. Photo: DWAYNE SENIOR

Loof/Bulkeley NP

Couple opts for trendy lifestyle with rooftop retirement home

ANTONY PALTRIDGE

THE attraction of inner-city living has prompted a New Plymouth couple to build a penthouse on one of the city's best buildings. Willie and Rosalie Still are now building their retirement home on the top of the city's landmark Kings Building, on the corner of the Devon Mall and Brougham St. The couple, who have owned the building for about 10 years, have lived in the existing flat for the past year. Mr Still said that once the self-contained penthouse was completed, the lower flat would be used as guest rooms. The building's elevator would be extended to provide easy access to the rooftop level.

For Mrs Still, moving into the building was something akin to coming a full circle, as her first job was working in the building 50 years ago. "We used to come up here and sit in the sun and eat our lunch, so I knew there was a flat up here," she said. The existing flat the Stills are living in was extended before its former occupant, former Govett-Brewster Art Gallery director John McCormack, moved in. Mr McCormack asked to live in the unit as it had once been the home of the first gallery director John Maynard. From the top of the building, the Stills have reasonably good views of the sea, the city and Mt Egmont. "It's really nice up here, you can see all the ships coming in," Mrs Still said. The area is also very quiet at night

and the Stills have had no problems with inner city hoons disturbing their peace. There was also the attraction of being so close to all the facilities the inner city had to offer. With no lawns to mow and the security of the building taken care of by security guards, there were far fewer hassles in leaving town for a few days or a holiday. The lack of lawns to care for was a strong attraction to Mr Still. "Having no lawns to mow, that's the story. That's the part I really like." The Stills' move is the latest in several inner city residential developments in recent years. The Tasman Hotel has been turned into luxury apartments, while a revamp of the nearby Colliers Building is also to include apartments.