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## **Playground, pub and playhouse celebrated at 2016 Western Architecture Awards**

[Download gallery of winning images](#)

A diverse range of buildings – including a fort and pirate ship influenced playground, a historic hotel, and a theatre extension – are among the winners of the 2016 Western Architecture Awards.

Twelve projects received awards at an event held at New Plymouth Golf Course on Friday (May 20<sup>th</sup>). The peer-reviewed awards are a part of the New Zealand Architecture Awards programme, which is run by the New Zealand Institute of Architects. As such, they set the standard for good architecture in the region.

The convenor of the awards jury, New Plymouth architect Eldon Peters, said this year's crop of works are of "an extremely high quality."

"The award-winning works are set apart by each architect's exemplary response to the client brief and to the range of cultural, heritage and environmental conditions that must also be considered."

While awards were conferred for projects of many types and scales, Peters said it was small architecture projects, such as Architype Architects' playground project for Palmerston North's West End School, that "free the whimsical spirit of the architects involved."

The playground, a "dream project," is a hybrid fort and ship composed of "two great structures sited on a grassy knoll".

"Both have kid-sized spaces and all manner of bridges, climbing structures and walkways," Peters said. "Unfortunately, they were just too narrow for jurors trying to recapture their childhoods."

Tertiary students and staff at Massey University in Palmerston North also benefitted from Architype – Shadbolt Architects' ability to think, literally, outside the box. The "deconstructed box" refurbishment of the entrances and lobbies of a 1970s university building resulted in a "re-energisation of previously austere and dated spaces," the jury said.

"The language of the sequencing acknowledges the building's transition from past to present and, overall, the spaces have been lightened and brightened with custom-made graphics and installations inspired by the various fields of Social Science Studies that call this building home."

The final small project award-winner, Taranaki District Health Board's Mobility Garden, by Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architects, is a multipurpose garden and pathway arranged

around an “immense” sculptural tree. To aid patient rehabilitation, the “garden seamlessly integrates form and function, and successfully enhances the hospital’s entrance, provides protection from sun and rain, increases the availability of public seating and provides a frame for climbing plants,” the jury said.

Complex, large-scale works also received awards this year. Studio Pacific Architecture’s “simply stunning” strengthening and refurbishment of the Sir Geoffrey Peren Building, at Massey University, received a heritage architecture award. The architects “peeled away decades of unsympathetic building alterations and allowed the original intentions of architect Roy Alston Lippincott to shine through,” the jury said. “This splendid restoration left us in awe of the enormity of the architect’s task and the endless attention to detail.”

Designgroup Stapleton Elliott’s public architecture award for the Globe Theatre extension was praised for respecting the proportions of the original curved theatre. “Complete attention to scale, height and materiality ensures the form of the extension does not overwhelm the original. The significant glass walls of the foyer reduce the impact of the extension on the older building and allow it to retain its own dignity,” the jury said.

Three commercial architecture awards were presented this year. Atelierworkshop’s “salvage” of New Plymouth’s White Hart Hotel – once a building with a dubious past and an uncertain future – adds a “delightful addition to New Plymouth’s cultural precinct,” the jury said. “Vibrancy has been restored to this building once threatened with demolition.” GHD Architecture’s zinc and timber-clad simulator building at Ohakea Air Force Base “continues the trend for excellent buildings at Ohakea,” the jury said.

Veterinary buildings often don’t figure highly in architecture awards, but Vet Services Dannevirke, by Dalgleish Architects, buck the trend. “The smartly articulated façade is eye catching without being flashy and is a triumph to the skill of the architect,” the jury said. “The modest cost is proof that the best architecture is not necessarily that with the largest budget.”

The Western region’s reputation for high quality residential architecture was also reiterated this year. Three new housing projects and one addition and alteration won awards. Each house, said Peters, reveals the “careful consideration of the client’s brief paired with imaginative site-sensitive design.” The jury said ‘Park De Haus’, Architype – Shadbolt Architects’ third winning project, cleverly disguises its scale while providing “carefully framed views to garden scenes.” The Hinton House, by Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architects, is a “beautiful house that relates easily to the site and will be a pleasure to live in.”

“If builders’ homes are ‘never finished’ then perhaps it’s fair to say that architects’ homes are almost always a ‘work in progress,’” Peters said. “The home of New Plymouth architect Jim Elliot has, however, reached an admirable state of completion.”

“This house, anchored to its landscape, and expertly finessed, shows an architect at the top of his game.”

In the addition and alteration category, the Bell-Booth House by Felicity Wallace Architects “makes the most of a wonderful garden setting,” the jury said. “The significant replacement of a small, gabled

entrance porch replaced with a larger pitched roof is calm and reassuring yet also inspires a dynamic and tension between old and new.”

All winners of 2016 Western Architecture Awards are listed below. These projects are eligible for shortlisting in the New Zealand Architecture Awards, which will be decided later in the year, with winners announced in November.

For more information, images of winning projects, or to arrange an interview with jury convenor Eldon Peters, please contact:

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**Full list of awards winners: (photo credits relate to [this gallery](#))**

Commercial Architecture

White Hart Hotel Complex by Atelierworkshop. *Photo: Russell Kleyn*  
Vet Services Dannevirke by Dalgleish Architects. *Photo: David Silvester*  
Base Ohakea Simulator Training Centre by GHD Architecture. *Photo: Andy Spain*

Heritage

Sir Geoffrey Peren Building Strengthening and Refurbishment by Studio of Pacific Architecture.  
*Photo: Jason Mann*

Housing

‘Park De Haus’ by Architype – Shadbolt Architects. *Photo: Brad Boniface*  
Hinton House by Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architects. *Photo: Chris Hill*  
Elliott House, New Plymouth by Elliott Architects NP. *Photo: Pip Guthrie*

Housing – Alterations and Additions

Bell-Booth House by Felicity Wallace Architects

Public Architecture

Globe Theatre Extension by Designgroup Stapleton Elliott. *Photo: Heather Hocken*

Small Project Architecture

‘Life is a Playground’ by Architype – Shadbolt Architects. *Photo: Brad Boniface*  
‘Deconstructed Box’ (Massey University Social Science Tower Lobby refurbishment) by Architype – Shadbolt Architects. *Photo: Brad Boniface*  
Taranaki District Health Board Mobility Garden by Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architects. *Photo: Glen Jeffery*