



New Zealand Institute of Architects Incorporated

Best new buildings in Waikato and Bay of Plenty named

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The winners of this year's Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards were announced tonight (29 April) at a ceremony at the University of Waikato.

The convenor of the awards jury, architect Geoff Lentz, said the 23 winning projects in the peer-reviewed awards programme, which is conducted by the New Zealand Institute of Architects, set the standard for good architecture in the region.

New houses, traditionally a strong building type in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, are prominent among the award-winners. Ten houses, many of them in popular holiday destinations or rural locations in the Coromandel Peninsula and around Lake Taupo, were acknowledged for their high quality design.

Lentz said many of the "very imaginative" award-winning residential projects resulted from "inspired collaborations with clients."

"Successful architecture is the product of excellent working relationships."

Lentz also noted the strength of the commercial category in the 2016 Waikato/Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards.

"The high quality of some of the infrastructural and manufacturing facilities we visited suggests that the confident condition of the region's economy is being reflected in its architecture," Lentz said. "If there was an overall theme to this year's Awards, it is that each winning project, whether it is a house, a building at an educational institution, or a reinvented inner-city office, demonstrates the type of outcome that can be achieved by a client with vision and a highly skilled architect."

"The clients and architects who worked on these projects were highly motivated to produce a building that would not just meet basic requirements, but lift the surrounding environments as well," Lentz said.

The results of such collaborations include strong or colourful forms that sit clearly and comfortably in their landscapes. For example, the 'pioneer red' house in the Puketui Valley, near Tairua, designed by RTA Studio, expresses the client's interest in tramping and brightly coloured Department of Conservation huts.

On the other side of the Coromandel Ranges, the K Valley House, designed by Herbst Architects, includes recycled elements such as corrugated iron and timber. Both of these houses are inspired by the shapes and materials of traditional rural buildings.

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The Architecture Awards judges were also impressed with the level of investment and high standard of commercial work in the regional powerhouses of Hamilton and Tauranga.

In Tauranga, an actual ‘powerhouse’ – the new head office for Trustpower – received two awards: a commercial architecture award for the building, which was designed by Wingate + Farquhar, and an interior award for the fit-out by Warren and Mahoney.

Wingate + Farquhar also received awards for a “skilfully scaled” office, showroom and warehouse for the New Zealand-owned company Sims Distribution Tauriko, and for Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Tauranga, a purpose-designed Māori educational facility.

In Hamilton, the Awards judges described an R&D lab and factory designed by Jasmox for window and door manufacturer APL as a “new landmark for the city”. The building’s façade, which is 100 metres long and nine metres high, is a “living mural”, the jury said. The effect of the façade is to change the building’s appearance depending on the direction from which it is approached.

Chow:Hill Architects was acknowledged for the uplifting contribution to the surrounding environment made by Ebbett Audi and Volkswagen showrooms and an office building for insurance company FMG.

Fresh insights into ways to recycle existing buildings and building materials are also revealed in the awards. The jury said imaginative rehabilitation of offices for Louise Feather’s Planning and Talking Tech, both undertaken by Hamilton’s Edwards White Architects, are encouraging precedents for the re-use of Hamilton CBD buildings.

Lentz identified Eat Street, the public space project that has revitalised the heart of Rotorua, as a highlight of the Awards.

“This rare and important example of urban intervention saw a streetscape pedestrianised and transformed into a vibrant restaurant and social environment,” the Awards jury said. “A project like this shows the capacity of architects and visionary clients to inject new life into our cities and towns.”

Lentz said the jury was pleased to make two awards in the Enduring Architecture category. Enduring Architecture Awards, which recognise the continuing value of buildings more than 25 years old, went to Arcus House (1965), Hamilton, by Mercer Brown Architects, and St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, Tamahere (1972), by Gillman Garry, Clap & Sayers

For more information and images, or to arrange an interview with jury convenor Geoff Lentz, please contact:

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[2015 Waikato/Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards: Full list of winners](#)

Commercial Architecture:

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Ebbett Audi and Volkswagen Showrooms, Hamilton by [Chow:Hill Architects](#)

FMG Offices, Hamilton by [Chow:Hill Architects](#)

APL Factory, Hamilton by [Jasmax](#)

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Tauranga by [Wingate + Farquhar](#)

Sims Distribution Tauriko, Tauranga by [Wingate + Farquhar](#)

Trustpower HQ, Tauranga by [Wingate + Farquhar](#)

Education:

Waiariki Institute of Technology Health and Science Building, Rotorua by [MOAA Architects](#) and Darryl Church Architecture

Enduring Architecture

Arcus House (1965), Hamilton by Mercer Brown Architects

St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Tamahere (1972) by Gillman Garry, Clap & Sayers

Housing:

Screened by Pōhutukawa (Stage Two) by [Architecture Bureau](#)

Priest Residence by [Brendon Gordon Architecture](#)

The Bach Bach by [Crosson Architects](#)

Gordonton Residence by [Edwards White Architects](#)

Wharewaka House, Lake Taupō by [Fraser Cameron Architects](#)

Lakeside Bach, Lake Taupō by [Fraser Cameron Architects](#)

K Valley House, near Thames, by [Herbst Architects](#)

Puketui Valley House, near Tairua, by [RTA Studio](#)

Hahei House by [Studio 2 Architects](#)

Pauanui Beach House by [Sumich Chaplin](#)

Interior Architecture:

Louise Feathers' Planning Fitout, Hamilton, by [Edwards White Architects](#)

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Talking Tech Fitout, Hamilton, by [Edwards White Architects](#)

Trustpower Head Office, Tauranga, by [Warren and Mahoney](#)

Public Architecture:

Eat Streat, Rotorua, by [APR Architects](#)