



New Zealand Institute of Architects Incorporated

Gisborne library and council buildings and impressive Hawkes Bay homes win 2019 architecture awards

Two public buildings in Gisborne – a library restoration and extension and a new building for Gisborne City Council – and four Hawkes Bay homes have received awards at the 2109 Gisborne Hawkes Bay Architecture Awards.

- **Information under strict embargo until: 8 pm, Friday 17 May**
- Download awards galleries: *High res gallery* or *Low res gallery*
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“The six award-winners are excellent examples of architecture from our region,” said Tess Fenwick, a Registered Architect from Napier who convened this year’s awards jury. Fenwick was joined on the jury by fellow Napier architects David Wright and Alison Miranda, and Auckland architect Paul Clarke.

“The houses add to Hawkes Bay’s already strong reputation for high quality, well planned and thoughtful residential architecture and the two winners in Gisborne show that local stories and culture can be interwoven into important buildings in meaningful ways,” Fenwick said.

Chow Hill Architects designed both Gisborne winners. The Gisborne District Council Administration Centre Te Kaunihera o te Tairāwhiti, or ‘Awarua’ for short, won a Commercial Architecture Award.

“It is a storybook of the region and a building that the people of Gisborne should rightly treasure,” Fenwick said. “From the well-defined entrance, which is flanked by a double-hulled waka, through to the welcoming, airy foyer and the modern working environments, Awarua is reflective of community, culture and history and responsive to the needs of a contemporary workforce.”

Gisborne’s H. B. Williams Memorial Library Extension won Chow Hill a Public Architecture Award.

“It is a well-crafted extension to a Gisborne landmark adds a distinctly local feel to an elegant modernist treasure,” Fenwick said. “While much is made of the library’s value in the digital age, this building, with its strong civic presence and light-filled and open spaces, makes an excellent case for the on-going provision of high-quality public spaces.”

Napier’s Dwell Architecture designed two of the winning houses, including River House, sited on a plateau with views of Te Mata Peak. From a distance the house looks like a barn or shed, in a rural landscape, the jury said. “Inside, however, the architect has clearly considered – and attended to – all the elements required for well-ordered family life, no matter what the season.”

Dwell Architecture’s second winner was a Waimarama bach. “The success of this project lies in its ability to embody the values of a traditional bach and holiday lifestyle. The architecture is clean and efficient but not without character,” the jury said. “Surely there are few better spots to immerse oneself in New Zealand’s coastal landscape.”

Bay View House, designed by Slessor Architects, “certainly lives up to its name”, the jury said.

“The seaside house has many successful aspects but none is greater than the architect’s solution for a complex brief. The house accommodates a home and a busy business in a series of intimately scaled spaces that open up in the best places and in the best ways to celebrate family life and beachside living.”

A Havelock North designed by Clarkson Architects for a Durham Drive site was the fourth Housing Award winner.

“Sited proudly on a hillside, but hidden away from the busy road above, this house is a confident expression of the owner’s brief,” the jury said. “There is joy to be found in the spaces and forms, especially in the clearly defined entry with strong precast walls and canopy, and the dark-stained cedar and concrete block walls that anchor the house to sit in the olive-grove surrounds.”

The awards are part of the New Zealand Institute of Architects’ New Zealand Architecture Awards, a nationwide programme. Many of the award-winning projects demonstrate how architecture can support new ways of working living.

All 2019 Gisborne Hawkes Bay Architecture Award winners are listed below.

The Gisborne Hawkes Bay Architecture Awards are part of the nationwide New Zealand Architecture Awards programme run by the New Zealand Institute of Architects. Through the awards, the NZIA aims to show why good architecture matters in the ongoing development of New Zealand’s cities, towns and communities.

For more information, images of all winning projects, or to arrange an interview with jury convenor Tess Fenwick, please contact:

Justine McCleary

New Zealand Architecture Awards Publicist

Phone: 022 402 3526

Email: justine@hartillpr.co.nz

Gisborne Hawkes Bay Architecture Awards; all winners

Commercial Architecture

Gisborne District Council Administration Centre Te Kaunihera o te Tairāwhiti – Awarua, Chow:Hill Architects. Photo: Amanda Aitken

Housing

Durham Drive House, Havelock North, Clarkson Architects. Photo: Richard Brimmer

Waimarama Bach, Dwell Architecture Limited. Photo: Andrew Caldwell

River House, Havelock North, Dwell Architecture. Photo: Andrew Caldwell

Bay View House, Slessor Architects. Photo: Eva Bradley

Public Architecture

H. B. Williams Memorial Library Extension, Gisborne, Chow:Hill Architects. Photo: Amanda Aitken