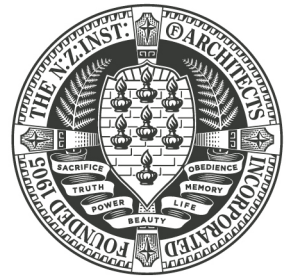


Te Kāhui
Whaihanga
New Zealand
Institute of
Architects



New Zealand Institute of Architects is gifted a te reo Māori name

The New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) is proud to announce its gifted Māori name – Te Kāhui Whaihanga.

NZIA president Tim Melville says the inclusion of a Māori name is an important moment in the history of the Institute, which was established in 1905 to represent New Zealand's architects.

"The Institute's Māori name recognises the contribution of indigenous design practitioners, declares our commitment to the values of the Treaty of Waitangi and signals our desire to promote inclusivity in our profession."

"We are most appreciative of the gift of a name that offers a deeper level of meaning to our work as New Zealand architects," Melville says.

The name Te Kāhui Whaihanga was bestowed on the NZIA by the academic, broadcaster, writer and artist Dr Haare Williams MNZM (Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, Rongowhakaata, Ngāi Tūhoe).

Dr Williams says the te reo name combines Te Kāhui, a collective term for a group of people, and Whaihanga, which means to build or shape.

"Te Kāhui Whaihanga is not a translation of the NZIA's name," Dr Williams says. "It's an interpretation that advances an idea to another level. Te Kāhui Whaihanga is not only about architecture – it's also about building a nation's future and building a people."

The te reo name for the Institute of Architects is a further recognition of the evolving relationship between the Institute and Ngā Aho, the organisation representing Māori design professionals. The mutual commitment to that relationship is expressed in a kawenata or covenant signed by the NZIA and Ngā Aho two years ago.

"Co-operation, working together, and representation – all of these values are expressed in the kawenata and in the name Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects," Dr Williams says.

Dr Williams and NZIA president Tim Melville acknowledge the good will and dedicated effort that produced a kawenata and a te reo name that express the values and ambitions of an organisation dedicated to building a better Aotearoa New Zealand.

“In particular, rangatahi – our young people – have shown impressive leadership on this issue,” Dr Williams says.

NZIA president Tim Melville says the Institute of Architects is especially grateful for the leadership demonstrated by architecture graduate Elisapeta Heta (Ngātiwai, Waikato Tainui), who has served as Ngā Aho representative on the NZIA’s governing Council for three years.

“Elisapeta has made a huge contribution in guiding our discussions about Māori cultural values, environmental concepts and design principles,” Melville says.

Elisapeta Heta says the Institute’s gifted Māori name will help the NZIA realise the values expressed in the kawenata with Ngā Aho.

“It’s so important to be clear about what you’re doing, but to be aspirational and inspirational at the same time,” she says.

“Haare and I believe that is what is achieved by the linking of two names – Te Kāhui Whaihanga and New Zealand Institute of Architects.”

ENDS

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