

Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards – winners announced

Twenty-four projects have received awards in the 2020 Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards.

Demonstrating the range of work undertaken by architects in the region, the winners in the peer-reviewed awards programme run by Te Kāhui Whaihangā New Zealand Institute of Architects include Tauranga Airport and the Zespri headquarters, a university and an early childhood centre, a restored chapel and houses in a variety of rural, urban and suburban settings.

Awards jury covenor, Tauranga architect John Henderson, said the jury, which also included architects Sharon Jansen and Fraser Cameron and Alice Hutchinson, Director of Tauranga Art Gallery, visited an excellent group of shortlisted projects of very different scale.

“We were encouraged by a growing emphasis on building quality,” Henderson said. “It was great to visit warm, healthy buildings that embody the best of sustainable design practices.”

Henderson said the jury was fortunate to be able to visit shortlisted projects before the country went into lockdown.

In the Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards commercial category Jasmox was acknowledged for the additions to Tauranga Airport, which have “created a strong new identity for the region’s air travel gateway”.

In the same category, Warren and Mahoney Architects and Architecture Page Henderson have designed a lively Mt Maunganui workplace for Zespri in a building that is “a signature presence between the utilitarian port and residential areas of Tauranga”.

Warren and Mahoney Architects received another award in the commercial category, for Tauranga Crossing, which the jury said “is not just another mall, but a compelling example of what modern, multi-shop experiences can be.”

Edwards White Architects received two commercial category awards, one for Foster Group Headquarters in Hamilton, “a building that displays an uncommon concern for

quality and design detail in an industrial context”, and the other for Riverbank Chambers, also in Hamilton.

“This elegant, top-floor fit-out provides broad views over the river and city, creating a very desirable workplace,” the Awards jury said.

Two projects won awards in the education category. The buildings at the University of Waikato Tauranga CBD Campus, designed by Jasmax, have “a great sense of connectivity to place and have established a strong living presence in the city,” the jury said.

At the other end of the education spectrum, The Lakes Early Childhood Education Centre in Tauranga, designed by Copeland Associates, is “a progressive and very human solution to an institutional brief.”

One award was made in the heritage category, to St Mary’s Convent Chapel, Hamilton, a 1926 building that has been renovated by PAUA Architects. “It is heartening to see our built heritage retained and restored with such care,” the jury said.

Fourteen awards were made in the most highly populated category: Housing.

TOA Architects won an award for Maungārongo, a “compact contemporary whare” in Tauranga that is “a deeply personal domestic space, steeped in meaning and informed by whakapapa.”

Just down the coast, the Papamoa Beach House by Herbst Architects brings a Japanese aesthetic to the Kiwi beach experience. The jury said “the veil walls and entry court resemble modern shoji that alternate between screen and lantern.”

Two houses in Mt Maunganui were awarded. Generational House by Studio2 Architects is a “carefully detailed and skilfully realised” suburban home, and Two Six Splay House by Architecture Bureau “creates a journey from the busy public realm of the street through relaxed family spaces to the unexpected breadth of a park outlook.”

Hamilton is also the site of two Housing category award-winners. Three Gables, by Edwards White Architects, has “a compact and thoughtful plan and well-proportioned courtyards that make the house a joy for its owners,” and the Robertson Residence, by PAUA Architects, “is both a bold response to a particular site, and a sensitive solution of dwelling there.”

Cambridge’s two award-winning houses are Aspin Road House by Studio of Pacific Architecture, “a very comfortable family home that is the realisation of years of planning and a high level of client input,” and Thornton Road Passive House, by Architype, a

home “sensibly organised for its retired owners” which meets demanding sustainable design standards.

Five housing category award winners are located in the Coromandel. The Hill House at Hahei, designed by Felicity Wallace Architects, a contemporary pole house that is “playful and surprising – part fort and part tramper’s hut,” the jury said.

Hot Water Beach House by Scarlet Architects is a house “successfully organised around a triangular courtyard flanked by verandas and a central breezeway and intended to ensure flexible multi-generational occupancy.”

With Hikuai Hill House, Dorrington Atcheson Architects have made “excellent use of a spectacular site” to produce a home that is “a compact and faithful expression of the clients’ ideals.”

Light Mine is a house on the Kuaotunu Coast designed by Crosson Architects with the region’s history in mind. “Three separate living spaces are unified by uniquely sculptural, off-grid skylights that reference the mine shafts of this former gold-mining area,” the jury noted.

Near Waihi Beach, the Bowentown Bach designed by Edwards White Architects presents a weathered shell to the street, but inside “a warm, honeyed living space looks out to the dunes and sea.”

Edwards White Architects also won an award for their Kinloch Bach, which the jury said takes “a stripped-back approach to contemporary bach comforts and conventions” while providing warm social spaces.

Two awards were made in the Small Project Architecture category. The jury said Ao Marama Retreat near Katikati by OPL and Mitchell Stout Dodd Architects is “a truly rustic retreat that invokes the collective Kiwi memory of remote huts and simple comfort”.

Chemis Cabin, Rotorua, by DCA Architects of Transformation is a highly compact little building that is “nestled unobtrusively into a lush native bush environment.”

The 2020 Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards is a programme of Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects, supported by Resene.

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