

Te Kāhui
Whaihanga
New Zealand
Institute of
Architects

F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship for Public Housing 2024

Expression of Interest



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Invitation

Do you have a compelling research idea for Aotearoa New Zealand's housing challenges?

Entries are open for the F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship for Public Housing.

Submissions must be received by 19 August 2024.

Background

The F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship for Public Housing invites architects and design professionals from Aotearoa New Zealand to explore how architecture can help address one of today's most pressing human rights: housing.

This Fellowship seeks to promote creative design thinking, problem solving, and new ideas and approaches to significant unmet housing needs across Aotearoa New Zealand through a self-directed research and design project. The programme cultivates new housing leaders who contribute to the ongoing transformation of public housing in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This Fellowship offers an opportunity for engaged professionals to explore these challenges and opportunities to develop new ways of thinking or approaches for consideration by decision makers. It is hoped that new ways of looking at the complex relationship of design and public housing will ultimately influence the design outcomes as well as the overall wellbeing of people and communities.

Click to see the [2023 winner](#) and [shortlisted submissions](#).

Fellowship Brief

The successful recipient(s) is expected to conduct research, with travel if deemed necessary, into a topic relevant to Aotearoa New Zealand's housing challenges of the future. Recipient(s) will be expected to consider and explore both current solutions and forward-looking possibilities in other countries as well as Aotearoa New Zealand. Recipients will also be encouraged to connect and engage with the resources and insights provided by agencies such as Kāinga Ora and Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), among others worldwide.

Fellowship projects must have a connection to public housing in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The findings from, and application of, the Fellowship research should be relevant and useful in expanding public housing knowledge, supporting public policy development and influencing decision makers and the outcomes being delivered. Project applications that utilise a unique perspective or innovative solution/methodology are encouraged.

For the recipient(s), this Fellowship should be an important means of exploring architecture in a different way and engaging in self-driven enquiry.

Some questions that might be asked:

- How will public housing need to adapt, change and perform in the future?
- What are the challenges that will define the next five years, 10 years, 20 years, 50 years?
- How might different communities want to live into the future?
- What are the expected larger economic and cultural forces?

Possible issues to be considered, for example, could include but are not limited to:

- new materials and technology
- zoning and land use reforms
- sustainability, reuse, and adaptation to climate change
- equity in housing
- new housing typologies and models of delivery (co-housing, community land trusts, modular housing)
- housing solutions for vulnerable populations
- emergency housing responses (e.g. in response to climate change, natural disasters, war/civil unrest)
- connections between housing and health

The Fellowship recipient(s) must be willing and able to articulately present the F. Gordon Wilson research to a variety of audiences – professional, public and the media – and to represent the F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship confidently at Institute events.

Selection

Eligibility

Applications for the Fellowship:

- must be a graduate of a programme in architecture or related field, such as landscape architecture, urban design, planning, public policy, engineering and/or similar
- can be submitted by an individual or a team (collaboration)
- must be Aotearoa New Zealand citizens and/or permanent residents
- must be able to be completed over no more than 12 months and must begin within six months of receipt of the award letter

The Fellowship cannot be used for the: promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view; advocacy of a particular programme of social, environmental, cultural or political action; support of specific public policies or legislation; academic/educator funded research, Masters or PhD candidates research and/or preparation or revision of textbooks.

Selection criteria

The F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship jury will review proposals for:

- clarity of purpose and research idea
- originality
- feasibility (time, budget, research idea)
- consistency with the Fellowship purpose

Specifically, the Fellowship jury will evaluate the quality of applications for:

- significance of the proposed project to housing and public housing outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand
- extent to which the applicant's proposal represents a unique/innovative approach to the topic
- quality and clarity of definition, organisation, and description of the project
- feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed work plan, programme and budget
- likelihood that the applicant completes the project within one year

Selection process

The selection process occurs in two stages. The jury first selects a shortlist from the submitted proposals. The shortlisted entrants will then be asked further questions/areas of clarification for the jury's final consideration.

Stage 1 submission applications must include:

- stated purpose of enquiry
- proposed possible outputs, such as:
 - * design presentation
 - * collaborative design workshop
 - * presentation of physical prototype(s)
 - * presentation to Institute and government agencies, other professional organisations
- project schedule/programme
- budget, and travel itinerary, if appropriate
- portfolio of previous works, if applicable
- applicant(s) CV
- letter of support from employer for Fellowship application, if applicable

In **Stage 2**, the shortlisted applicants will be required to respond to jury feedback and/or questions and update their Stage 1 proposal. This proposal will include details of the research methodology, the detailed costs of delivery, the timeline and anything specific and/or unique to the proposal. Shortlisted applicants for the F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship will present their proposals to the jury in Stage 2, online, at a pre-arranged presentation time.

The F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship is \$20,000 and this amount must not be exceeded. Within this amount the F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship recipient must:

- deliver appropriate original research, with evidence that can be published and used in communications
- procure necessary materials and inputs for the research
- allow for any travel and accommodation
- ensure any copyright, permissions and referencing are organised

Jury

Purpose

Each jury panel consists of five members who bring diverse viewpoints and varied experiences to the process. They play a key role in reviewing the applications and selecting the Fellowship recipient. Jury members also provide feedback and additional support and connections to the Fellowship recipients.

Key tasks of the jury include:

- review all applications
- agree on shortlist and interviews
- agree annual winner
- create jury citation
- agree any comment for media and communications, and or media spokesperson/comments for the award winner

Members of jury

Huia Reriti FNZIA

Architect, Perehitini (President) of Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects

Dr Kay Saville-Smith

Chief Science Advisor for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Research Director, Centre for Research, Evaluation and Social Assessment

Marko den Breems

Director Architecture, Kāinga Ora

Peter McPherson

Head of School, School of Architecture, Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka Unitec

Julia Mandell

AIA; Design Director, Wilson Associates; representative of F. Gordon Wilson's family

Key Dates 2024

1 July	Expressions of Interest open
19 August	Deadline for submissions
30 August	Shortlist announced
23 September	Shortlist applicants submit final proposal
15 October	Shortlist applicants present to Jury
22 November	Winner announced at the Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects' national awards, Auckland

Submission

Submission format

Submissions must be presented in PDF format, maximum of five A4 pages. The PDF document must not exceed 4 MB file size. Applications must be submitted with the Expression of Interest Cover Form document, which can be [downloaded here](#).

The Institute requires that all submissions be received electronically. The Institute accepts no responsibility for not being able to decipher material submitted in an unusual format, or one that is not specified as above.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions must be received at kmatthew@nzia.co.nz by 3pm 19 August 2024.

All proposals received will be acknowledged by close of business on 23 August 2024. Submitters of shortlisted proposals will be notified by 30 August 2024. Shortlisted proposals will be provided with details of Stage 2 submission requirements at this time.

Stage 2 submissions will be required by 23 September 2024, at which time in-person presentations and interviews will be scheduled and conducted, and the successful proposal will be announced at the New Zealand Architecture Awards event, 22 November 2024.

Confidentiality, copyright and attribution

The decisions reached by the New Zealand Institute of Architects F. Gordon Wilson Fellowship jury are final and binding for all participants.

On receipt, submissions become the property of the Institute. Although retained by the Institute, there is no intention to use the ideas contained in any submission for any other purposes.

Contact

Any enquiries regarding submissions should be addressed to:

Kirsten Matthew
Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects
Level 2, 252 Ponsonby Road, Auckland
kmatthew@nzia.co.nz
022 479 0504

Appendix

Recognising a Remarkable Contribution and Legacy

F. Gordon Wilson

- Chief Architect of the Department of Housing Construction (1936–1943)
- Chief Architect of the Housing Division of the Public Works Department (1943–1952)
- Assistant Government Architect (1948–1952)
- Government Architect (1952–1959)

Francis Gordon Wilson was born in Perth, Australia, and moved to Aotearoa New Zealand with his parents and younger brother in 1903. Known as F. Gordon Wilson, he followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both named Francis John and both active architect-builders who frequently travelled between Australia and Aotearoa with their profession.

F. Gordon Wilson's grandfather Francis John Wilson was born in South Africa in 1836 and arrived in Timaru in the 1850s. His career spanned approximately 30 years, during which he designed public and private buildings in Timaru and Wellington. The architect has been credited with designing a large number of prominent buildings, including the Oriental Hotel and Kirkcaldie & Stains warehouse. In Palmerston North, he was the principal architect for the Opera House, which was his last building. Francis John Wilson died in Gisborne in 1911.

F. Gordon Wilson's father Francis John was born in Timaru in 1865 and spent the majority of his professional life in Australia. When he returned to New Zealand in 1903 with his young family, they settled in Wellington. In 1916, F. Gordon Wilson was a teenager when he was articled to architect William M Paige in Wellington. In 1920, he relocated to Auckland where he studied at the University College School of Architecture and began working for Hoggard, Prouse and Gummer. In 1923, when William Gummer partnered with Reginald Ford, Gummer and Ford employed F. Gordon Wilson as a draughtsman. After completing his professional examination in 1928 and being admitted to the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA), F. Gordon Wilson became an associate partner at the practice. During his time there, he is known to have been involved in the design of the Remuera Public Library, Auckland Railway Station, Wellington Public Library (now the City Gallery), the National War Memorial and Carillon, the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum building in Wellington.

F. Gordon Wilson began his public service career in 1936 as Chief Architect for the Department of Housing Construction. He was tasked by Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage and his Labour Government to help tackle the nationwide housing crisis. The architect led the design of an innovative state housing programme, which included thousands of new single duplex and multi-unit houses, as well as internationally recognised modernist apartment buildings.

Several influential modernist social housing developments include the Berhampore Flats (built in 1939-1940), the Dixon Street State Flats (1941-1944), the McLean State Flats (1943-1944), the Hanson Street Flats (1943-1944), and Auckland's Grey's Avenue Flats (1945-1947) and Symonds Street Flats (1945-1947). The Dixon Street flats were awarded a gold medal by the NZIA in 1947.

In 1948, F. Gordon Wilson was appointed Assistant Government Architect, then became Government Architect in 1952. Continuing his tenure until 1959, he attracted many talented young architects to work in his department, including Ernst Plischke, Friedrich Neumann (Frederick Newman), Helmut Einhorn, Ian Reynolds and Douglas Beere. He also encouraged the establishment of the Wellington Architectural Centre and played a prominent role in the NZIA at branch and national levels.

Today, with F. Gordon Wilson's sons and granddaughter Julia Mandell taking up the profession, architecture reaches across five generations of the family.

The focus of this fellowship recognises F. Gordon Wilson's historic role as design champion for State Housing in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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