



## New Zealand Institute of Architects Incorporated

### City revitalising works win Architecture Awards

Projects that breathe new life into the downtown area of New Zealand's fourth-largest city are among the winners of 2018 Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards.

Buildings in central Hamilton join projects from Tauranga, Rotorua and Taupō on the list of 21 award winners that includes revitalised urban parks and commercial buildings, education and sports facilities, cultural and community centres, as well as houses that add to the region's history of inventive residential architecture.

*Download photos of winning projects:*

- [High res gallery](#)
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The 2018 Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards are part of the peer-reviewed New Zealand Architecture Awards programme run by the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) and sponsored by Resene. The programme sets the benchmark for the country's building projects and recognises the contribution of architects to their towns and communities.

Taupō architect Gavin Robins convened an awards jury that included New Plymouth architect Murali Bhasker and Hamilton architect Megan Scott.

Robins said he was heartened to see the steps being taken to improve Hamilton's inner city.

"The quality of architecture we saw throughout the region is exemplary, and we were especially happy to see the efforts being taken to reverse the decline of Hamilton's inner city," Robins said. "Older buildings are being converted to accommodate modern work practices and provide new leisure opportunities for locals and visitors."

### **Hamilton**

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Edwards White Architects are at the forefront of efforts to improve Hamilton's city centre. The practice received five Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards, one of them a Planning and Urban Design Award in association with Aecom for **Victoria on the River**.

The amphitheatre park creates a "compelling new connection between Hamilton's city centre and its great, although often ignored, feature: the Waikato River", the jury said. "With its well-chosen materials, stepped gardens, terraces and wide boardwalks the park creates an atmosphere of peace and calm, and can also easily host larger crowds enjoying a riverside event".

Working in association with Designwell, Edwards White Architects received a Commercial Architecture Award for **Mezz Box**, which overlooks Victoria on the River.

"Thoughtfulness pervades this new structure," the jury said. The "intriguingly angled insertion into an existing commercial building" was prefabricated on an adjacent site before being craned into position.

Edwards White Architects received a second Commercial Architecture Award for the **Genesis Building**, a renovated and extended supermarket building. The jury praised the "excellent connectivity to the city's urban fabric," the selection and handling of materials and the "care in sequencing the approach to and circulation throughout the building".

Edwards White Architects also received an Interior Architecture Award for the Genesis Building fit-out, **Kenehi on Bryce**. The jury was impressed with the "democratic planning", which gives the staffroom expansive views of Seddon Park, and with the architects' attention to light and circulation.

Edwards White Architect's fifth award was for a house near the Waikato River. "**River Retreat** is a delightful response to a narrow site", the jury said. "It is a wonderful example of how contemporary architecture can be integrated into the landscape."

Walker Group Architects was another successful practice with four projects at Temple View Estate, the Church of the Latter Day Saints' Hamilton campus, receiving awards, including three for Heritage.

The jury described the restoration of the **Wendell B. Mendenhall Library Building** as an "accomplished piece of work", noting the success of the "bright, spacious and welcoming double-height entry lobby." By incorporating elements

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from previously demolished Latter Day Saint buildings “a sense of history and identity is retained”.

The architects’ preservation and renewal of **Te Rau Aroha** – a ‘**Kai Hall**’ with a long history of feeding multitudes – will ensure its future, the jury said. “This building is an example of how heritage value can be increased with simple and honest interventions.”

Walker Group Architects’ approach to reworking the **George R. Biesinger Building**, a 1960s chapel, also deserved its Heritage Award, the jury said.

“As much as possible of the original building was retained, with new interventions, designed in the spirit of the original design, strengthening the building’s connection with the Temple landscape.”

Walker Group Architects fourth award was for Public Architecture. The **David O. McKay Stake Centre and Cultural Events Centre** “is a monumental yet restrained and timeless design that reflects the history of the Latter Day Saints Church by emulating elements from the original temple,” the jury said.

## **Tauranga**

In Tauranga, the jury recognised educational and cultural buildings designed with meaningful connections to wider communities.

Babbage Consultants won an Education Architecture Award for a new gymnasium for **ACG Tauranga** that is designed to “stand the tests of time – and teens”. The gym was planned with flexible ancillary spaces to meet the needs of wider groups of users.

Tauranga practice First Principles Architects received two awards. **Tauranga Intermediate School** is “a good example of a well-planned modern learning environment with a variety of spaces suitable for different pedagogies”, the jury said.

First Principles Architects’ **Mangatawi Tara**, a building for the management and operational staff of Mangatawa Papamoa Blocks, received a Commercial Architecture Award. Inspired by Kopukairoa, Mangatawa and Hikurangi – three whales whose stories feature in the lore of Tauranga Moana and Te Arawa iwi – the building is “functional, culturally fitting and strongly connected to a special site”, the jury said.

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Two vibrant Tauranga offices were awarded Interior Architecture Awards. An office for **Seeka** by Architecture Page Henderson “illustrates how a clean, pristine and modern approach to the refurbishment of a derelict 1970s building can increase staff satisfaction, morale and productivity”, the jury said.

Stufkens + Chambers Architects’ conversion of a former Tauranga bank building at **53 Spring Street** into a shared corporate office environment also received an Interior Architecture Award. “The architects have delivered a cosy boutique atmosphere with well-detailed junctions between old and new,” the jury said.

Stufkens + Chambers Architects’ second award was for Small Project Architecture. **Promenade**, a temporary installation built for Tauranga Art Gallery’s *Future Machine* exhibition, was “a successful collaborative project designed to encourage the public to consider the role of art and architecture as integral components of dynamic cities”, the jury said.

## Rotorua

**Te Waimirimiriri o Te Kuirau**, Rotorua ‘footbaths’ designed by Architecture Aotearoa, is “a thoughtfully conceived project that illustrates contemporary reinterpretations of traditional Māori building”, the jury said.

The structures are expressed through concrete panels adorned with patterning suggestive of pou and tukutuku, and weighty timber poles. “The architecture is uniquely suited to the geothermal locale,” the jury said, in awarding the project a Planning and Urban Design Award.

## Housing awards

Houses of varied shapes, scale, forms and budgets received awards. An intriguing winner is the **DNA House**, designed by Crosson Architects for a Coromandel site. The slender steel struts of the compact house sit lightly on the ground, while movable screens perforated with representations of the clients’ DNA shield upper decks.

“Amazing, outstanding, superb – this is a meticulously crafted house with exceptional personality,” the jury said.

John Henderson Architecture designed the **Walton House**, near Tauranga, to showcase the variety of timbers sourced and milled on his clients’ farm. “From a

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cohesive collection of complementary wood tones and textures a warm and generous environment has been created,” the jury said.

For the design of **Turama**, a house near Rotorua, RTA Studio expressed a design that responds to the whakapapa of the client’s family while responding to the landscape beyond the footprint of the site.

“The significant contemporary home with a design informed by Maketu and Taihiti ley lines is a unique gem – a culturally significant private residence hidden in suburbia,” the jury said.

**Pukemoremore House**, designed by Sumich Chaplin Architects for a site in Cambridge surrounded by mature trees, “is a sophisticated farmhouse for a modern family, designed with a timeless aesthetic”, said the jury.

**Mary’s House** at Lake Tarawera, by Bellbird Architect is a compact house nestled within two acres of bush.

“The success of the design is way it connects with bush, lake and volcano surrounds,” the jury said. “The interior creates drama through contrast, between light, bright-white bedrooms and darker, more enclosed spaces.”

All Waikato / Bay of Plenty Architecture Award-winning projects are eligible for shortlisting in the New Zealand Architecture Awards, which will be announced at a November event in Wellington.

*For more information about any award-winning projects, or to arrange interviews with the awards convenor or a winning architect, please contact:*

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**Full list of award winners by category**

*Download photos of winning projects:*

- [High res gallery](#)
- [Low res gallery](#)

**Commercial Architecture**

Mezz Box – Edwards White Architects and Designwell in association

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Genesis Building – Edwards White Architects  
Mangatawa Tari – First Principles Architects

### **Education**

ACG Tauranga Gymnasium – Babbage Consultants  
Tauranga Intermediate School – First Principles Architects

### **Heritage**

Wendell B Mendenhall Building – Walker Group Architects  
Te Rau Aroha, Kai Hall – Walker Group Architects  
George R Biesinger Building – Walker Group Architects

### **Housing**

Mary's House – Bellbird Architect  
DNA House – Crosson Architects  
River Retreat – Edwards White Architects  
Walton House – John Henderson Architecture  
Turama – RTA Studio  
Pukemoremore House – Sumich Chaplin Architects

### **Interior Architecture**

Seeka – Architecture Page Henderson  
Kenehi on Bryce – Edwards White Architects  
53 Spring Street Interior Fitout – Stufkens + Chambers Architects

### **Planning and Urban Design**

Te Waimirimiri o Te Kuirau – Architecture Aotearoa  
Victoria on the River – Edwards White Architects and Aecom in association

### **Public Architecture**

David O. McKay Stake Centre and Cultural Events Centre – Walker Group Architects

### **Small Project Architecture**

Promenade – Stufkens + Chambers Architects