

# New Zealand Architecture Awards 2015

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Waikato /  
Bay of Plenty

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Institute of Architects  
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## Introduction

To achieve our ambition of discerning the best architecture from the last 12 months in the Waikato / Bay of Plenty region, our four-person awards jury traversed many miles, through regional centres and further-flung districts, to rolling pasture lands and native bush fringed lakes and rivers. Our subject matter was as diverse as the terrain. Architects from the Waikato and Bay of Plenty are traditionally strong in the design of new homes. This year, that tradition continued with a range of buildings, in a range of styles and sizes, that displayed not just a thorough understanding of local landscape and climatic conditions, but historical sensitivity and material innovation. But residential work is just one building typology. Our jury also visited new hospitals and clinics. The best showed new ways of putting the patient at the heart of the medical experience, using design as a tool to improve

the psychological experience as well as the physical. Likewise, in new educational facilities we observed the building's ability to play an integrated part in the learning experience. At new police stations we encountered evidence of community engagement and civic and cultural pride, while in Thames, we saw both a celebration of current heritage and an example of what may come to be considered, in time, our future heritage.

It must be said, the jury were an absolute pleasure to work with and an admirable mix of local, out of town and lay person which made for robust discussion. One overarching theme evident this year was the notion that great architecture should be observed on its inherent merits, irrespective of budgetary allowance. This is something we, as a profession, need to constantly align ourselves with, particularly in regards to our

current shortage of low-cost high-density housing, and our public perception of being reserved only for the highest earners.

Judging awards may not be an easy role, but it is an enjoyable one. It is an opportunity to gain insights into the stock and state of architecture in our area, and to meet architects and observe the results of strong collaborations they undertake with their clients.

For me, successful architecture is a product of these relationships, but also it should aspire to exceed client expectations, and at its heart have an inherent simplicity and beauty.

**Camden Cummings**

Jury Convenor

NZIA Waikato/Bay of Plenty Branch

Each year since 1927, the New Zealand Institute of Architects has offered an awards programme that presents high quality architecture in New Zealand. Resene Paints has been the proud sponsor and awards partner of the NZIA since 1990.

The winning projects featured in this publication – all designed by NZIA Architect members who work in NZIA Practices – represent the best architecture produced in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions over the past year.

Local Architecture Awards are run by each of the NZIA's eight branches. Each year they celebrate high-quality architecture across the following categories: housing (new; multi-unit; additions and alterations), public, commercial, education, small project, interior, and retail and hospitality. There are also honours available for planning and urban design, and for 'enduring' architecture – buildings more than 25 years old that stand up well to the test of time.

The projects featured in this booklet are now eligible for consideration at the top tier of the NZIA's annual architecture awards programme – the New Zealand Architecture Awards, which are announced in early November. National award winning works in the categories of housing, commercial and public architecture are then considered for

Signature Awards (named after influential New Zealand architects). Finally, the country's highest architectural honour – the New Zealand Architecture Medal – is awarded to a single project that is deemed, overall, to be the best of the best.

At any level, local or national, The New Zealand Architecture Awards is an opportunity to raise a wider awareness of the values of architecture by promoting excellence in design. It is an opportunity to encourage informed public debate on how we can make our cities and towns better places to live and work. And it is a chance to encourage and promote environmentally responsible practices and solutions for the enhancement of the built environment.



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## 408 Anglesea Street

### Edwards White Architects

This example of urban renewal on a budget shows how the reinvention of a once-tired building can breathe new life into a city's urban fabric. From the street, the building's vertical rhythm is enhanced by the dark-metal screen applied to the façade. The material theme continues into the interior, with new entranceways and lobbies benefiting from refined selections, monochromatic colour choices and a considered approach to lighting design. More dramatic design moves, such as the staircase of folded metal, are flourishes that serve to heighten the sense of overall quality.



Photo: Chris Hillock

Commercial Architecture Award

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## 554 Victoria Street

### Edwards White Architects

This project is more than just a clever façade addition; it's a highly successful example of adaptive re-use that gives Hamilton's main street a shot in the arm. On this project, architect, developer and builder have clearly reaped the rewards of a close working relationship. The once worn-out bank building has been opened up to the street, and through the large, newly glazed entranceway a window into a commercially sophisticated interior has been created. Within the building, natural light is prioritised and the clever re-organisation undertaken complements modern approaches to working life.



Photo: Mark Hamilton

Education Award

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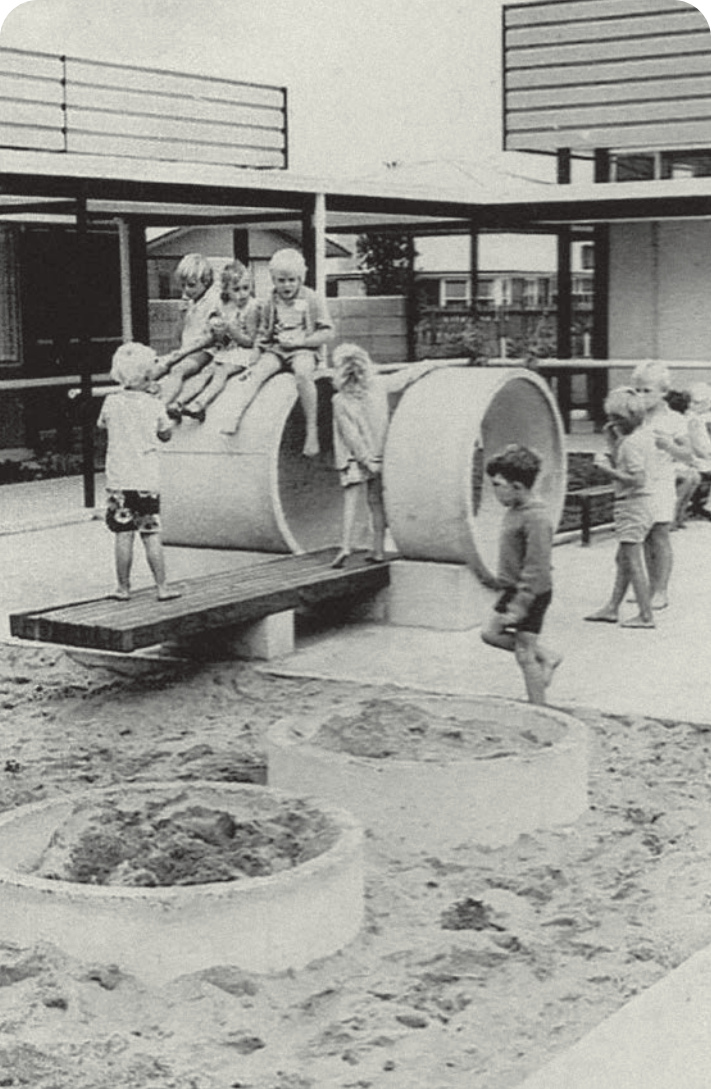
## Wintec Engineering & Trades Facility

Chow:Hill Architects

This new home for 1000 engineering and trades students at Wintec's Rotokauri campus emphasises a student-centred, collaborative approach to learning. This is a long life, "loose-fit" structure, which is incredibly adaptable to modern learning requirements. Overall, the composition might be described as "bones-out", with the buildings services and structural systems left on display to aid student understanding. In effect, the building is not just a place to go and learn; it is an integrated part of the learning experience.

From the exterior, this building reads as a series of vibrant boxes; inside, those vibrant colours serve to provide an intuitive system of wayfinding while acting as a counterpoint to the "bones out" tectonic of the building.

Resene Colour  
Award



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## Deanwell School (1968)

South Auckland Education Board: Architectural Division

Deanwell School, formerly Melville Experimental School, is recognised as the first open-plan school in New Zealand. The school utilised simple forms supported by space-frame roof structures, which spanned teaching spaces without intermediary supporting walls – spaces not unlike modern learning environments. The school's four classroom blocks also benefit from a strong relationship with the outdoors, with large glazed doors connecting with covered walkways and a network of finely scaled landscaped courtyards. In 1970, this 'experimental' model, a significant move away from the prevailing typology of one teacher, 40 children, 40 desks, won an Auckland Architecture Association Design Award award. Today, the original buildings are superbly maintained and utilised, serving as evidence of their enduring relevance.





Photo: Simon Devitt

Heritage Award

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## The Treasury Research Centre and Archive

Architectus

A former Carnegie Free Library has been carefully restored to provide public access to formerly homeless archival records of the social history of the community, while a refined and shamelessly contemporary building has been built adjacent to store this information for posterity. This clever and elegant pair of buildings contributes a remarkable urban presence to Thames. Not only do they offer a wonderful amenity for locals and visitors alike, but they also have the power to transform the town's view of the value of good architecture, in terms of both its historic and future heritage. The success of this project is a tribute to Morrie and Geraldine Dunwoodie, and the team of dedicated local people behind the Coromandel Heritage Trust.



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## Bagge-Des Forge House

Roger Course Architect

Maximising the opportunities afforded by an otherwise difficult slice of subdivided and covenanted suburbia-by-the-sea, this Waihi Beach house exploits the brooding appeal of an adjacent bush-filled valley, as well as more distant snippets of ocean, in a way that belies the proximity of neighbours. Refreshingly compact and achieved with an economy of means, the house delivers a comfortable informality and is warmly expressive of its place and the personality of the active family that lives there.



Photo: Simon Devitt

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## Big Sky Farmhouse

### Xsite Architects

Old-school farming 'can-do' lies behind the realisation of this house, where the land has been shaped to literally ground the elegant, lightweight building in a sky-dominated landscape of rolling pasture. Cowshed building technology, extensive prefabrication and industrial materials of structural steel, in-situ and precast concrete, and composite insulated panels, have allowed rapid construction at a cost rarely seen, particularly for the quality of the living environment achieved. Exuberant interiors reflect the passionate commitment of the owner in the process and celebrate domestic farming life.



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## Lakeside Holiday House

Fraser Cameron  
Architects

When sun and views occupy opposite compass point an irksome architectural conundrum arises. This elongated pavilion, perched on a Taupō cliff edge with a panorama of lake and mountains for company, solves the problem through extensive glazing on two long sides – a manoeuvre that maximises the opportunities for views from south and north, while providing a sun-welcoming living court that is protected from the cold southerly wind. Serene interiors draw on the boatshed form, emphasising the elegant exposed trusses and utilising to effect a quiet texture-based material palette, all complemented by the skilful use of concealed lighting.



Photo: Simon Devitt

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## Ngarimu Bay House

### Xsite Architects

The trim and unpretentious exterior this house presents to the street only hints at the delightful sequence of spaces to follow. Superbly matched to its context and environment, the building is expressed as a collection of timber-clad boxes grouped around a sheltered, north-facing courtyard that descends down a steep site to connect with views of the Firth of Thames. Excellent spatial proportions and material choices, combined with effective site planning, all contribute to the creation of a warm and welcoming environment.



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## Maniatutu Road Residence

Edwards White Architects

Carefully sited on a knoll in rolling Te Puke farmland, with Mount Maunganui making its presence felt in the distance, this courtyard farmhouse takes advantage of compelling views in all directions. Nearing retirement age, the home's owners requested a modest and practical farmhouse, comfortable for the two of them day-to-day, but also able to accommodate visiting family. The architectural response exploits the opportunities of the courtyard, with visitor's bedrooms occupying one wing and the main accommodation self-contained in another. Although sited on high ground, this house is discrete. However the unassuming appearance is misleading, for a closer inspection reveals a sophisticated and crafted composition.



Photo: Craig Brown

Housing Award

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## River House

### APG Architects

This central Hamilton riverside home is cleverly designed to support modern family life and entertaining within the footprint of a modest, pre-existing 1940s house. This design celebrates a uniquely strong connection with the river, with indoor and outdoor living areas articulated along the water's edge. The interior arrangement is relaxed and playful, with clever concealment devices incorporated to engender a sense of neatness and order that more than compensates for the home's compact size.



Photo: Craig Brown

Housing Award

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## Southbank Townhouse

Antanas Procuta  
Architects

This CBD-edge, Cambridge townhouse makes the most of a compact site. The textured, white-painted brick exterior has been arranged to offer privacy against the adjacent street to the north, while focusing instead on the glimpses of trees and magnificent distant views to the east. The relaxed ambience and good connections to the landscape are a testament to a collaborative working relationship between architect, interior designer and landscape designer.





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## **Craig Tebbutt House** John Henderson Architecture

The architect has admirably achieved the brief to sympathetically improve this 1920s Arts and Crafts home. The clever rearrangement of garage and driveway provides space for new gardens and a glazed outdoor room, while new gables and ocular windows further enhance the grand exterior. The internal transformation shows both a keen eye for modernisation and a particular attention to period detail. The result is an elegant and substantial character home, well suited to modern living.



Photo: Simon Devitt

Interior Architecture Award

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## Big Sky Farmhouse

### Xsite Architects

This interior, for dairy farmers and their three teenagers, reflects a desire to respond to the big sky of the Hauraki Plains. The design is also evidence of a strong relationship between client and architect and a willingness to experiment, inside as well as out, with varied materials, including some, such as pre-fabricated composite steel and polystyrene panels, that are more typically found in dairy industry cool stores. This interior responds well to the natural environment and to the client's brief, with separate areas for children and parents allowing the home to be opened up or shut down as family requirements dictate.



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## **Kaiwaka Point Terrace Apartment** Fraser Cameron Architects

This refurbishment and addition project was beset by an additional challenge – very strict unit title constraints that would not allow any alteration to the exterior cladding. Despite this, the resulting works to this two-level terraced townhouse are a coherent response to client requirements. The works show a high degree of design and material resolution, well-defined spaces within an open-plan public area and careful use of lighting. Although sophisticated and pared back, the interior is welcoming and comfortable, with the overall experience heightened by the ‘borrowed’ views of the nearby lake.



Photo: Craig Brown

Public Architecture Award

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## Avantidrome

Chibnall Buckell Marovic  
Team Architects

This significant resource for cycling and high performance sport – the “home of cycling” – is situated on a difficult site between State Highway one and a gully. The building’s simple and robust exterior form is a fitting response to its inner purpose – the track. Comprised of 250 metres of Siberian spruce, the track is both elegantly and functionally impressive. Also impressive is the lightweight roof structure; supported by the exterior circumference and without any interior support columns, it provides spectators, no matter where they sit, with unobstructed views of the action.



Photo: Simon Devitt

Public Architecture Award

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## Bay Oval Trust Carrus Pavilion

Jasmax

Located within a large community park between the Port of Tauranga and seaside Mt Maunganui, the new home for Bay of Plenty Cricket has been designed with aplomb. The pavilion, which meets the requirements for hosting international cricket, while serving the more prosaic requirements of local users, is both robust and elegant. Thick timber beams and in situ concrete walls ensure the building will endure any hard knocks, while the distinguished curve of the pavilion roofline, echoed by the sweeping terraces of the foreground, reflects the sweeping geometry of the oval itself.



Photo: Simon Devitt

Public Architecture Award

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## Kathleen Kilgour Centre Wingate + Farquhar

This new radiotherapy clinic is a striking addition to Tauranga Hospital's health precinct, a brave and bold statement of architecture in both form and function, and a wonderful healthcare asset for the Bay of Plenty. This centre sits simply and elegantly on its site, with the envelope carefully formed to create an interior that is wholeheartedly focused on patient comfort. Within the building, subtle features aid navigation and help alleviate some of the stresses typically associated with medical facilities. The clear focus on energy-saving objectives means this building can be considered a success at human, healthcare and environmental scales.

Colour has been expertly applied as a distinguishing feature and an orientation device. The interior's gentle green hues, combined with dramatic feature-wall planting and other highlights create an ambient interior experience that is psychologically calm and warm.

Resene Colour  
Award

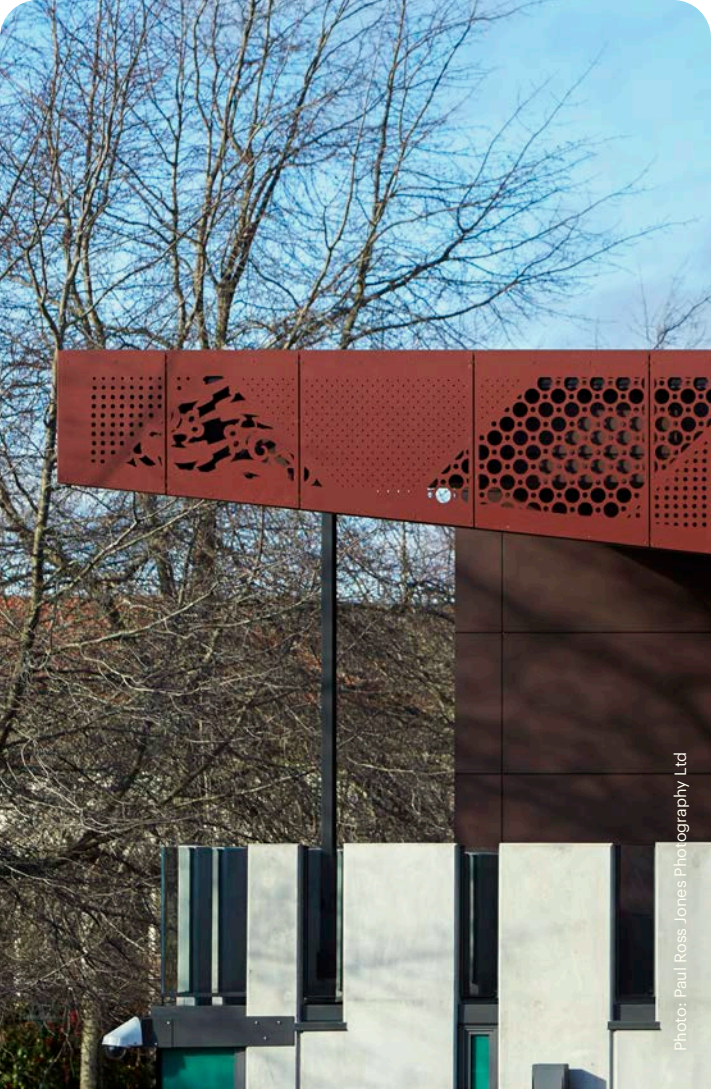


Photo: Paul Ross Jones Photography Ltd

Public Architecture Award

Resene Colour Award

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## Rotorua Police Station / Te Amo Whakaruruhau

Leuschke Group and  
Vincent · Chrisp Architects

Modern police buildings must walk a fine line between community accessibility and the presentation of a safe and secure face. A proud addition to Rotorua's urban landscape, this building is, via the laser cut aluminium korowai (or cloak) that is draped across its length, literally engraved with the culture and stories of the region. The building's interior is cleverly programmed and technically sophisticated, designed to balance community access to public rooms while adhering to the strict security requirements that are required for efficient and effective policing and safe working environments.

The earthy hues and strong identity that are the distinguishing features of the building's exterior also carry through the building's interiors, where compositions of strong, natural blocks of colour aid in the differentiation and definition of various areas.

# Congratulations to all this year's winners.

The 2015 Waikato / Bay of Plenty Local Architecture Awards jury was comprised of:

## **Camden Cummings**

(convenor)

Jasmax, Tauranga

## **Alasdair Christie**

(lay juror)

Sharpe Tudhope

Lawyers, Hamilton

## **Les Matthews**

Beca, Hamilton

## **Lindley Naismith**

Scarlet Architects,

Auckland

### **In assessing a project for an award, the judges look at:**

- the relationship of the building to its site, context and presence;
- user satisfaction, value to the client and acceptability of solutions to the brief;
- the degree of consistency and completeness in expressing the relationship between concept, form, and structure;
- light, colour, texture and spatial qualities;
- structure, construction, materials and issues of durability and detail;
- environmental performance; and
- contribution to the advancement of architecture as a discipline and the enhancement of the human spirit.

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Additional photos and information about these award-winning projects can be found on the New Zealand Institute of Architects website and social media channels.

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