



Regional architects recognised

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A funeral home, a New York loft-style apartment and an Otaki farm house are among the top architecturally-designed buildings in Wellington.

Three designers took home Wellington/Wairarapa Regional ADNZ and Resene Architectural Design Awards at the annual event on Friday night. The awards recognise creative and well-designed residential, commercial, alterations and multi-use projects from across New Zealand.

Ben Gilpin, of Gil-plans Architecture, received recognition for an Otaki farm house designed for a retiring couple and a funeral home in Waikanae.

His design for the Otaki home scored him the residential new home between 150m² and 300m² architectural design award and a Resene colour in design award.

At first glance, this was a “simple, object-in-the-landscape type of project”, the judges said.

However, a level of complexity was revealed through stepping levels and shifting wall planes articulated in strong hues and timber highlights, they said.

Gilpin’s Waikanae funeral home received a commended in the commercial/industrial category.

Judges’ commented on the elegant division of spaces for commemoration and funeral preparation within a “well-enclosed envelope”.

Meanwhile, Robyn De La Haye

received a residential alterations and additions architectural design award for her work on a unique apartment built into the back of a warehouse.

De La Haye used the New York loft as inspiration for her design, Caretakers Apartment.

The original warehouse building and office was built in the 1950s and has since been turned into a sewing factory, a factory producing hand printed wallpapers and now premises for a painting contractor.

“The newly created space is uplifting and full of light and volume, having almost a tent-like quality,” she said.

“The large amount of glazing allows the changing light of the day to filter into the apartment, creating atmospheric mood and drama.”

The last of the local awards went to Peter Davis, of AD Architecture, who received a commended in the residential interiors category for his design of an urban beach house on the Kapiti Coast.

The judges said the design used consistent use of colour and timber, bringing various points of focus for family activities.

Regional awards are being around the country during June and July. The national awards will be held on October 28.

WELLINGTON & WAIRARAPA ARCHITECTURE WINNERS: Taylors Road

Award: 2016 regional residential new home between 150sqm and

300sqm architectural design award and colour in design award

Designer: Ben Gilpin, of Gil-plans Architecture

Location: Otaki

Description: A warm, light, contemporary and vibrant farm house, the design is open plan with a mono-pitch roof. It is sympathetic to the natural landscape, with black stained cedar, teal Titan board, cedar battens and crisp white fascia featuring throughout the design.

Judges’ comments: At first glance, this is a “simple, object-in-the-landscape type of project”, however, on approach, a level of complexity is revealed through stepping levels and shifting wall planes articulated in strong hues and timber highlights.

Waikanae Funeral Home

Award: commended in the commercial/industrial category

Designer: Ben Gilpin of Gil-plans Architecture

Location: Waikanae

Description: An existing industrial building was converted to a contemporary commercial building. The clients requested a contemporary and uplifting building in contrast to a typical funeral home. They wanted a place to celebrate not commiserate and felt a building was the start point for this. The brief entailed glass facades, modern forms and softening through material selection to provide comfort over starkness.

Judges’ comments: The



project presents an elegant division of spaces for commemoration and funeral preparation within a well-composed envelope.

Caretaker's Apartment

Award: 2016 regional residential alterations and additions architectural design award

Designer: Robyn De La Haye

Location: Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt

Description: Built in the 1950s, the original warehouse building

and office to the front is now used as premises for a painting contractor.

The building itself was very dilapidated and dirty. The apartment needed to be fire separated from the warehouse storage facility and required a separate entry from the rear, providing indoor-outdoor flow to the proposed garden behind.

Although the building was always a lightweight structure, the colour, the dirt, and the orientation, had

made it seem heavy and oppressive. The newly created space is uplifting, and full of light and volume – having almost a tent-like quality. The large amount of glazing allows the changing light of the day to filter into the apartment, creating atmospheric mood and drama.

Judges' comments: This is

warehouse living. A restrained palette sets up a celebration of the cross sectional volume and the industrial roots of the building.

Novak-Williams

Award: commended in the residential interiors category

Designer: Peter Davis, of AD Architecture

Location: Paraparaumu

Description: The project brief was to design a house that would take advantage of its views, and fit in with the coastal environment.

Judges' comments: Consistent use of colour and timber brings various points of focus for family activities.

“The newly created space is uplifting and full of light and volume.”

Robyn De La Haye on Caretaker's Apartment



Soft materials and fluid lines made Waikanae Funeral Home a place to celebrate, not commiserate.



Novak-Williams' use of colour and timber in a Paraparaumu coastal house was praised for its connection to the environment.



Ben Gilpin's Otaki farm house designed for a retiring couple