



# Shorts

## News

# Designing higher density

Designers respond to the urgent need for high-quality multi-unit medium-density housing in New Zealand cities.

**MORE THAN** 200 design professionals from around the country attended ADNZ's (Architectural Designers New Zealand) recent Medium Density Housing Summit - a showcase of best-practice high-quality design-led medium-density development and technical advice.

### **Demand increasing for medium density**

ADNZ Chief Executive Officer Astrid Andersen said the ADNZ Summit was held as demand for medium-density housing across New Zealand cities rises.

'ADNZ members in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Wellington and Christchurch are seeing an increase in this type of work,' she said. 'I am hearing of members in Bay of Plenty and Auckland now having more than 25% of their enquiries for medium-density projects. Even regions such as Taranaki are getting inquiries for medium-density housing.'

### **Solution to housing pressure**

Astrid says the Summit provided exemplars of medium-density living and demonstrated how this type of development can offer a solution to housing pressure in our major cities.

'Urban densification in New Zealand needs to happen, and ADNZ has a vested interest in working with related industries and responding to the urgent need for high-quality multi-unit medium-density housing,' she says.



The multi-award-winning Commons, Melbourne, is an example of medium-density housing that could be adapted for New Zealand cities.

Big-picture advantages of medium-density living include the creation of urban communities, less use of arable land for subdivisions, environmentally sustainable construction and the benefits of solar energy captured en masse.

The Summit featured experts in acoustics, legislation and regulations around fire, weathertightness, structure and cladding.

Keynote speakers included award-winning Australian architect Andrew Maynard, a founder of Nightingale Housing, which provides affordable quality urban housing with high sustainability outcomes, and notable New Zealand architect Pete Bossley.

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