



Designer scores jackpot in first time award entries

This is turning out to be a good year – a very good year – for Aaron Guerin of Cambridge-based LAD Architecture.

Guerin came away from Saturday's 2015 Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ) Design Awards with four prestigious awards.

He was named regional winner of the Residential Alterations and Additions Architectural Design Award; the Commercial/Industrial Architectural Design Award; and the Resene Colour in Design Award – and was commended for the Residential New Home (150-300 square metres) Architectural Design Award.

Making the win even sweeter is the fact that neither Guerin nor LAD has entered before.

"This was the first time we had entered these awards," he said.

"The timing was just right. We made the decision to enter as a team – the projects we entered were ready, the team was ready. I couldn't be more proud of them."

The win validates the team's abilities across the range of projects tackled by the practice on a daily basis.

The company was established in 2007, and is recognised for its expertise in both traditional and contemporary architecture across commercial, industrial and residential sectors. They also specialise in large scale renovations and interior design.

The regional ADNZ

awards presentation was

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held on June 20. The annual event celebrates the country's most innovative, creative and talented architectural designers, and sets out to identify stand-out designs categorised as new homes, interiors, alterations and additions, and commercial/industrial design.

The awards presented to Guerin were for his work on three different projects.

ADNZ chief executive Astrid Andersen said Guerin had proved himself to be a "stand-out designer amongst compelling competition".

"Last year a designer from the Waikato took out the supreme title at the national awards, and so we always expect a great deal from this talented region. To have one individual designer win on three separate occasions for three very different designs is a testament to Aaron Guerin's strong work ethic and his reputation in this competitive industry."

The winners of the regional awards are eligible for national titles, including the Supreme Design Award. The national awards will be announced on October 30.

Guerin's win in the residential alterations and additions category was for a charming historical villa. The challenges presented included re-piling and relocating the home on the site.

Judges commented on the designer's success in "maintaining the integrity and consistency of the building".

Guerin's win in the Resene Colour in Design Award was for a home designed for a young professional couple seeking to build on a difficult and sloping site. The brief was to create a contemporary, easy-care home.

Judges commented: "Striking shades of grey are in good company with a bold, double-sided red feature door."

The home also won a commended award for a Residential New Home between 150 and 300 square metres.

Guerin's award in the commercial/industrial category was for the Cambridge Medical Centre. The brief had been to transform the tired 1970s medical centre into a contemporary, low-maintenance building.

Judges said: "The building has been rejuvenated through a complete reanalysis of its functions."

Guerin put much of his success down to LAD's tight-knit team, and the trusting relationships built with clients.

"We're really excited about the nationals in October.

"We know we're up against the rest of the country – and we're ready for it."



Light fills the stairwell in the contemporary home designed for the young professionals.



The striking contrast between the grey of the house and the bright red door helped net the Resene Colour in Design Award for LAD.

Photo: THE OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS



The elegant sitting room in the renovated villa.



The entrance hall in the renovated villa exudes warmth.