

Award-winning Modernist house in Hamilton is all about 'black on white'

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Full-height glazing wraps two sides of the main living volume in the Black on White House designed by Noel Jessop of Noel Jessop Architecture.

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The main family living area is a soaring, spacious volume well suited to entertaining.



The monochromatic palette continues in the kitchen, which includes a custom hood above the island for the power-pack ventilation unit.

Mid-century Modernist architecture continues to influence design – and the judges in the 2016 Waikato Resene Architectural Design Awards.

The multi award-winning Black on White House, designed by Noel Jessop, takes its cue from the simplicity of the Modernist style.

Jessop says it's an architectural design he likes and it was a strong influence in this project, which took out the Residential Interiors Architectural Design Award and Residential New Home over 300m² Architectural Design Award.

"The design concept and the simplicity around it comes from not liking 'frilly' buildings. I like clean spaces, simple platforms and forms that people can quickly understand – like them or hate them."

Jessop specified a minimal palette of materials to enhance the monochromatic colour scheme, mainly glass, steel, cedar and white-painted brick. A long white brick spine wall anchors the house visually and serves as an organising element on the interior. It also functions as a gallery for the owners' art.

"The hallway spine-gallery is light and bright, due to the volume and the continuous high windows that allow the black ceiling to float over the glass."

The designer says the hallway also separates the public and private spaces, and ensures not everything is on display from the entry. "Once you step down into the main living area – a double-height space – the volume and view open up before you."

A reverse of this occurs when you step back up into the separate lounge, says Jessop.

"Here, the space closes down; the walls and ceiling are black, providing a cave or enveloping space to sit in front of the fire on a grey Waikato day, while the glazing still allows a connection to the view."

Jessop says it was important to ensure the main volume, with its full-height glazing, would not look like a commercial building. "The main box is all about balance," he says. "The square window pattern shows an element of detail without detracting from the expanse of glass."

In announcing the design award, the judges praised the project saying the building presents a set of concerns to do with light and shade, solid and void, and these are followed through into the material selection including recycled brick and blackened timber.

"This is a relentless pursuit of a set of ideas. There are variations on this theme which play out in the differing spaces branching from the spine of the gallery."

Jessop also took away other ADNZ awards on Friday night. The designer received a Commercial/industrial Architectural Design Award for his work on Ember Restaurant in Hamilton, and a Highly Commended for work on a bush bach hideaway located in the Coromandel.

Another of Jessop's projects in Tauranga, titled [Floating Boxes](#), won the 2016 Bay of Plenty Regional Residential New Home between 150m² 300m² Architectural Design Award.

- Stuff