



Designer gobsmacked with win

By LESLEY STANILAND

When a colleague rang one morning and offered congratulations for her win at the ADNZ Otago/Southland awards night, architectural designer Diana Blake was a tad puzzled.

“I had forgotten all about awards night and when I realised what he was talking about, I was gobsmacked,” Mrs Blake said.

She won the Otago/Southland category 2 award for a new home in the 150sqm-300sqm category, and the Resene Colour in Design Award as well, for a house she designed for a property in Brownston Street, Wanaka.

The 283m² house will now be considered for the major award at the national ADNZ awards later this year.

“When the owners came to see me, they walked up the drive here in Whangamata, the man saw my house and said ‘Wow, you’re my girl!’

“They live in Auckland and

have a holiday home here,” Mrs Blake said.

She said the project was challenging, with height restrictions in place as the property was across the road from the lake.

“It was a challenge to get two levels in so there were quite

extensive earthworks and engineering required.

“I also had to consider snow loading — not something I have to think about when designing for our area.”

Another challenge was that the house was to be used by two families so required two main bedrooms with ensuites, as well

as a bunkroom and space for children.

“But it was a great project to work on. The owners were easy people to work with and there were good vibes around the whole thing.”

Mrs Blake is currently designing a house in Queenstown but most of her

work is in the Waikato, Coromandel and rural areas of

South Auckland.

She doesn’t often enter her designs for the awards but each time she does she seems to win — testament to her design ability, enjoyment of her work and the ability to work well with her clients.



AWARD WINNER: Diana Blake won the gold award for the Otago/ Southland ADNZ award for a Wanaka house she designed.



BEST HOUSE: The Wanaka house designed by Diana Blake.