

Nelson renovation project celebrated at ADNZ regional awards

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This Nelson renovation took out two major awards in the regional ADNZ awards this weekend. The project, called 'Shades of Grey House' is by designer Tony Karsten of Karsten Architectural Design.

It may be called "Shades of Grey House" but this complete transformation of a small basic Nelson house is anything but bland.

Local architectural designer Tony Karsten won the Residential Alterations and Additions Architectural Design Award and Resene Colour in Design Award for the project in the 2017 Nelson Marlborough Regional ADNZ | Resene Architectural Design Awards.

ADNZ CEO Astrid Andersen said she was impressed to see a "very ordinary house" transformed into an award-winning dwelling.



BEFORE: The house was a small, basic home with little indoor-outdoor connection.

"This design demonstrates care and attention," she said. "The result is an edgy, contemporary home, which makes use of all available space."



The entire ground floor is now one large, open space that flows out to a large terrace.

The judges admired how the removal of all existing walls on the ground floor had created generous, open-plan living. "The ground floor is connected to an outdoor living space primed for the afternoon sun, and the concrete paving is set up to hold the heat. Secondary compositional devices – screens, balustrades, gates and the like – subtly gesture to the building's context."



In announcing the Resene Colour in Design Award, the judges commented on the neutral grey palette, which complements the different layers and showcases timber as a feature. "The lighter scheme used inside allows the beauty of the raw polished concrete floor to shine."



The kitchen features dark cabinetry with a natural timber waterfall bar top and table top.

The project utilises fibreglass mesh – more commonly used for walkways on fishing boats – to create privacy screens on windows, which shield the house from the busy street.

Tony Karsten describes the project as a team effort. He worked closely with interior designer and homeowner Ana Stevenson, to achieve the double award-winning result.

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