



URBAN FUNCTION ARCHITECTURE - ADNZ



COMPACT HOME COMMENDED

Urban Function Architecture was Highly Commended at the Architectural Designers New Zealand Awards in the 'Residential Compact Home up 150 square metres' category, for its Soleares Avenue design.

Rhonda Mitchell

Aaron Jones, Project Designer, says the concept was a high performance small home: it has thicker wall framing, extra bracing, extra insulation and high energy efficiency. The materials are high quality but value for money.

"Architecture is responding to a shift in thinking about space and cost efficiency," Aaron says.

The floor system bears this out, being a cross-laminated timber system that went down in only 1.5 hours. Engineered to cross longer spans, it requires fewer piles - cost effective in itself, but doubling its value when used on a rocky hill site.

The knotty pine floor, reminiscent of a DoC hut, and the knotty cedar cladding system, are 50 per cent of the cost of high grade timbers. Further, there is honesty in the structure being the finish material.

The client wanted a strong connection with nature: the rooms capture all the different views; the windows are arranged to frame the planting outside, and outside comes in as the cladding returns into the entry area of the house.

Aaron acknowledges builders SC Projects executed the design perfectly; the building firm also won two Golds at the NZMB House of the Year Awards, both of them Urban Function designs.

The future is exciting for Urban as community project - the Spencer Park Surf Life Saving Club - is just two months from completion. A passive house, a micro home and various technical hillside projects are all on the drawing board.

canterbury build