



Rusted Corten steel features on the exterior of the Madras Street units in Christchurch designed by Mitchell Coll of Coll Architecture.

Small houses win big at architecture awards

COLLEEN HAWKES

A Christchurch project featuring two adjoining houses, each just 74 square metres, has taken out the top prize in the ADNZ Awards.

“Madras Street”, by Mitchell Coll of Coll Architecture, won the 2017 ADNZ | Resene Architectural Design Supreme Award, proving that award-winning architecture isn’t always about size or expense. It’s about good design that ticks a lot of other boxes, including functionality, sustainability and aesthetics.

In announcing the award at a function in Wellington yesterday, the judges said the “Madras Street” workingman’s cottages on a 300 square-metre site in the central city are “an exemplar for urban living”.

“The cottages are reminiscent of ‘Christchurch school’ houses, which required no maintenance, because

basic materials such as Corten steel were utilised. Any constraints have been turned into advantages.”

Mitchell Coll says he designed the homes specifically for young professionals with energy efficiency, sustainability and durability at the forefront of all design decisions made, “while making no compromises with aesthetics”.

“Floor plan and volume efficiencies were made where possible to keep energy and costs to a minimum, for both building and running the home.”

ADNZ chief executive Astrid Andersen describes the win as “game-changing for the industry”.

“It opens the door for New Zealand to lead the way in multi-unit compact home design.”

The “Madras Street” project also won the Residential Multi-Unit Dwelling Architectural Design Award and the Residential Interiors Architectural Design Award.