



Winning design moves focus to students' needs

A Rotorua architectural designer has received supreme national honours for his work.

The design by Darryl Church of Darryl Church Architecture, in association with MOAA Architects, for the health and science centre at Waiariki Institute of Technology was awarded the best architectural design at the Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ) — Resene Architectural Design Awards in Christchurch last night.

Held annually, the event celebrates the most innovative, creative and aesthetic architectural designs in the country.

The inspired design of the centre led the winning designers to victory among tough competition, organisers said.

Facilities manager at Waiariki Institute of Technology, Kathryn Bloor, said most nursing and health qualifications were previously taught in prefabricated buildings that didn't provide for the needs of the students or staff.

"Darryl Church Architecture and MOAA Architects have influenced the way our students learn by introducing a more holistic work environment. In the time the building has been open, there has been a significant increase in the number of students spending more time on campus and studying in the common areas. This is a fantastic result and the centre has been a great addition to Waiariki Institute of Technology," she said.

Before construction began, 12 months of research, workshops and design went

into the creation of the centre to ensure it would meet the needs of the Bachelor of Nursing and Health programme and its student body of more than 400.

ADNZ chief executive Astrid Andersen said the quality of a teaching environment can directly impact on educational outcomes and a student's overall learning experience.

"It is encouraging to see such an inspired and considered approach to promoting learning. Every aspect of the design has a purpose, to provide an optimal teaching environment. From the colours on the walls to the way the building can be manipulated for individual or collegial study. It is all done to give these students and teachers an exceptional educational environment.

"Well done to ADNZ member Darryl Church, who has added yet another award to his extensive award collection," she said.

Judges of the 2015 ADNZ-Resene Architectural Design Awards said the project recognised a specific cultural environment and the shifting educational emphasis within it.

"There is a demonstration of an ambition to bring unity to the diverse campus through strength of form. This is a stage that presents an embodied sense of drama set up through careful design that extends from concept to realisation in built detail."

Mr Church's design also won the Commercial Industrial Architectural Design Award.



WINNING DESIGN: Darryl Church has been recognised for this design.

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