

Marae design wins national award (+ video)

One of the most coveted architectural award titles in New Zealand - the 2016 Supreme ADNZ Resene Architectural Design Award - has gone to a local wharemate at Tanatana Marae of Waimana designed by Aladina Harunani of Rotorua's apa architects and project managers.

The prestigious awards received more than 149 entries and were judged by leaders in the design and architecture community. The awards were announced in Auckland tonight.

Tanatana marae is home to Ngati Rere, a hapu of Ngai Tuhoe.

Located at a riverside settlement in the heart of Tuhoe country, it is one of 12 marae along a 20km stretch of road known as the doorway from the North into Te Uruwera ranges.

Tuhoe tradition is unique in that the deceased are not mourned in the wharenuī meeting house, instead in a wharemate.

Mr Harunani was commissioned to design a wharemate for whanau to mourn over a three to four day period. The contemporary design would sit alongside a traditional wharenuī.



Aladina Harunani. PHOTO/FILE

Marae committee representative Martin Rakuraku said the temporary shelters used in the past were no longer suitable and a permanent building was required.

"Traditionally the oratory takes place outside, whether it's rain, hail or sunshine. But we do occasionally get bad weather here and it's important for people to be warm and comfortable," Mr Rakuraku said.

"We decided we wanted this new building to house the mourning family and to be a symbol of the future."

Continued below.