

# The New Zealand Herald

## Modern barn scoops design award

By [Anne Gibson](#) @Anne Gibson  
2:12 PM Wednesday Oct 1, 2014



### **Modern Barn Form by Tane Cox of Red Architecture, supreme winner of the ADNZ Resene Architectural Design Award 2014. Photo supplied.**

A modern take on the country barn has won the top prize at national architecture awards, the ADNZ/Resene Architectural Design prize.

The supreme award winner, Modern Barn Form, Tane Cox of Red Architecture, was described as a subtle, economical and clever design centred on two black barn-like structures in the beautiful rural landscape of Whatawhata in the Waikato.

One of the black barn structures houses the main living and sleeping areas for the property while the entry and ablutions are in block forms to the south. The secondary black barn form holds the garage which is detached from the main dwelling.

Astrid Andersen said Tane Cox's work is an exciting glimpse at where young designers are taking home design in New Zealand.

"This design is a true testament to the innovation and creativity of young New Zealand designers - in particular it demonstrates how young designers are proving inventiveness and good design are possible with a limited budget. It is such a cool, ingenious and economical design and I for one eagerly anticipate great things in the future for this talented designer. To be able to take something as simple as a barn structure and use that as the basis for such an astonishing design form is testament to the skill and ability of Tane. Architectural design should thrill, challenge and excite us and this work does all of that," she said.

An architect who designed a stylish new house on an extremely steep Hibiscus Coast hill site on Red Beach's Duncansby Rd was the top Auckland winner.

David Maurice of Ltd Architectural won the category of compact new homes up to 150sq m.

The Duncansby Rd brief at Red Beach was to design a small, simple but elegant family coastal home using clean modern lines with vertical cedar as the building envelope, incorporating robust materials to weather naturally with time.



*Duncansby Rd at Red Beach on the Hibiscus Coast, by David Maurice of Ltd Architectural.  
Photo supplied.*

The house has many distinctive design features and involved the need for different creative solutions.

"This very steep site provided a challenge in terms of creating a suitable living platform," his firm's web site said.

"There was a want to minimise piling due to difficult ground conditions and to ensure an elegant subfloor structure as this would be highly visible. The solution was a series of steel portals and cable cross bracing to form a rigid frame which was then infilled with structural timber framing. The view is strongly framed between the projecting deck and it's canopy. The building sits lightly on the sloping site, suspended above the contour allowing sun and rain to reach beneath the building platform. In time vegetation will grow below and around the structure, re-stabilising the site and allowing good permeability. The living platform will be suspended over lush, green coastal vegetation with expansive views to the Gulf."

The judges found the house exceptional. "The planning layout which complements the simple box form provides good solar orientation and expansive views over the Hauraki Gulf. The fine detailing of the interior and exterior supports the overall modest but sharp concept," they said.

Astrid Anderson, ADNZ general manager, said many people were looking for smaller houses.

"Compact homes are very much the latest trend and to be honest it is about time. People are building smaller on complicated and often tight sections and so a higher level of design skill is required to make these homes work in terms of liveability and affordability. It was a delight to see the compact new homes category so highly fought at this year's awards. It signals a real shift in the right direction towards smaller, affordable living," she said.

The judges were Dr Andrew Barrie, Professor of Design at the School of Architecture and Planning, Dr Duncan Joiner, Chief Architect at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Graham Sawall, architectural designer and life member of ADNZ.

#### **WINNERS:**

Supreme winner: Modern Barn Form in the Waikato by Tane Cox of Red Architecture.

Norton house in the Waikato by Kris Wilson of Design House Architecture Ltd

SoYo in Christchurch designed by Chris Wheeler of Hierarchy Ltd.

Marina Point in Fiji designed by Greg Young of Life Style Architecture.

Il Viaggio in Shotover River (Queenstown) by Gary Todd of Gary Todd Architecture.

Heritage View townhouses in Dunedin by Brent Alexander of The Design Studio.

SiloStay in Little River (Canterbury) by Pippin Wright-Stow of F3 Design

Redwood Visitors' Centre - Public Toilets in Rotorua by Darryl Church of Darryl Church Architecture Ltd.

Duncansby Road, Hibiscus Coast by David Maurice of Ltd Architectural

[Source: ADNZ/Resene Architectural Design Awards]

By [Anne Gibson](#) @ Anne Gibson

- [NZ Herald](#)

Copyright ©2014, APN New Zealand Limited