



# Ski cabin wins architecture awards

A small ski cabin in Ohakune has won two awards in the Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatu ADNZ & Resene Architectural Design Awards, presented on Friday night, 3 August.

Maurice Regeer of MnM Design won the award for 'Residential Compact New Home up to 150m<sup>2</sup>' and also the 'Residential Interiors Architectural Design Award', with his Kowhai Cabin.

The judges recognised the uncomplicated but striking wooden cabin with its raw form and finishes.

They were impressed by the interior of the Ohakune cabin; a mix of different textures and colours designed to make inhabitants feel protected and warm in winter and cool and sheltered in summer.

"At 112 sqm, Kowhai Cabin is energy efficient and space efficient for a three bedroom house. It is well considered, unpretentious and delivers at a high level," the judges said.

"Protecting its occupants from the elements, its warm interior provides a hideout for all seasons while also enjoying the outdoors. An untreated Siberian larch cladding is combined with charred larch in feature areas, cutting into the main areas. Bi-fold screens corner off the entry area when the house is unoccupied but can be transformed into a lockable storage area or a carport.

The judges' citation reads: This alpine cabin is essentially a cube box with a slight pitched roof. The box is modified with recessed decks and sliding timber screens, which can be closed when not

in use. Sited carefully on a small section to suit the mountain views. At 112 sqm Kowhai cabin is energy efficient and space efficient for a three-bedroom house. It is well considered, unpretentious and delivers at a high level.

## Interior award

The judges said the cabin has a striking yellow and black entrance that welcomes visitors into this warm home built as a hideout for summer and winter.

"The interior is a mix of different textures and colours designed to make inhabitants feel protected and warm in winter and cool and sheltered in summer. Dark and light blue with pops of yellow work in synergy with rough concrete walls with smooth velvet fabrics, warm timber and cool concrete floors.

"Throughout the home, traces of Dutch heritage can be found along with an ancient Japanese technique (Shou-sugi-ban - the charring of timber) re-used 100-year-old rimu and repurposed furniture.

"The success of this alpine cabin lies in its simplicity. The interiors have been well thought out and a concrete internal spine provides effective thermal mass. It is comfortable to hunker down in. Services are housed in the centre and all the other rooms have windows to frame the surrounding mountain views."

The other award winners were Tony Biesiek for his New Plymouth house that won the award for the Residential New Home between 150m<sup>2</sup> and 300m<sup>2</sup>; and Steven Dixon's 'Papawhero Drive' won the Resene Colour in Design Award.



**Ohakune's 'Kowhai Cabin' – winner of two architecture awards.**



**ABOVE: 'Kowhai Cabin' "protects its inhabitants from the elements".  
BELOW: the interior of the cabin also won praise and an award.**

