



Stunning Puhoi bush bach takes major ADNZ award



The Back Country house in the Puhoi bush, designed by David Maurice of LTD Architectural, has won two major Auckland-Northland ADNZ awards.

It's back to basics up at Puhoi.

Well, almost. The large fireplace and twin bathtubs on the deck of this bush bach evoke a nostalgia for simple holidays, but there's plenty about it that's thoroughly modern.

The house, designed by David Maurice of LTD Architectural in Auckland, has won two major awards in the Auckland-Northland Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ) awards, announced on Friday, June 30, 2017.



Large openings on two sides of the living area open up the house to the deck that wraps around three sides.

The project won the award for a Residential New Home between 150 square metres and 300 square metres, and the Residential Interiors Architectural Design Award.



The outdoor table peels away to reveal two parallel bathtubs fixed into the deck in front of the outdoor fireplace.

Needless to say, the judges had plenty to say about the house. "The project presents a clear hierarchy of primary wedge form to secondary deck, fireplace and lean-to structures. The result is a strong building fit for a tough landscape. The building uses distinctly New Zealand cladding materials, including a free-standing large exterior fireplace, which reflects the back-country tradition.

"The interior feels calm, clean, and filled with filtered light, a haven despite the wild, back country outside."

The judges also praised the simple systems and spatial devices that provide flexible spaces within a "clever, compact plan".



The family can enjoy a fabulous view from dawn till dusk.

Appropriately known as "Back Country House", the architecture plays on the uniquely New Zealand typology of the back-country hut.

Simplicity is of the essence - the house comprises a single volume for living, cooking and eating, and a lean-to annex housing the lower floor service and sleeping areas.

LTD Architectural says the spaces are open and shared and "the experience is one of enhanced connection with each other, and to the surrounding environment".

"The living area opens fully on two sides, having the feel of an outdoor room, and the fire and baths located on the deck draw daily activities out of the house and into nature."

David Maurice also received an award for his transformation of a dated mock Tudor residence in Mairangi Bay, North Shore, receiving the Residential Alterations and Additions Architectural Design Award. And Maurice was awarded a Commended Award for a garage, studio and walkway project in the Residential Alterations and Additions Architectural Design category, making a total of four awards for the night.

The Resene Colour in Design Award and Commended in the Residential Interiors category went to Allan McIntosh of Buildology Ltd for 17 O'Neill, a project in Ponsonby.

Highly Commended in the Residential New Home between 150 square metres and 300 square metres category went to Mark McLeay and Mark Callander of Creative Arch for the Hekerua Bay Residence on Waiheke Island, Auckland. The same designers also won a Commended Award in the Residential Alterations and Additions category for Granny's Bay Residence in Hillsborough, Auckland.