



Designer wins top award for villa

STACEY OLIVER

A Waikato architectural designer has won a national design award for his work on a historical Cambridge villa.

LAD Architecture director Aaron Guerin took out the residential alterations and additions award at the Architectural Design New Zealand awards on Friday night in Christchurch.

The awards celebrate the best architectural designs New Zealand across both residential and commercial sectors.

Guerin transformed a small, rundown villa while staying true to its site and character. The win follows on the heels of Guerin's success at the regional awards in June, where he won three awards for three different projects, including the Cambridge Medical Centre. ADNZ chief executive Astrid Andersen said Guerin had remedied a number of obstacles

when it came to redesigning and altering the historical villa.

"Guerin's tasteful and sympathetic treatment has turned a cold, draughty villa into an elegant period example – a delightful heirloom home. The transformation is striking – this is clearly a stand-out design and

he deserves this award."

Guerin impressed the judging panel by maintaining the integrity of the existing building. The judging panel Michael Davis, director of architecture programmes at the University of Auckland, Dr Duncan Joiner, chief architect at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and award winning architectural designer Graham Sawell.

Guerin, a former Cambridge High School head boy, moved to Cambridge when he was four-years-old and it had been home ever since, aside from two years spent in Sydney, Australia.

Guerin and his wife Charlotte, also a director at the firm, returned to Cambridge in 2004 after the birth of their first child and LAD Architecture was established shortly after in 2007.

Now a father to three boys, Guerin said he had always had a passion for design and houses. The winner of this year's supreme architectural design award went to Darryl Church of Darryl Church Architecture in association with MOAA Architects for the The Health and Science Centre at Waiariki Institute of Technology's Mokoia Campus in Rotorua, Bay of Plenty.



Waikato architectural designer Aaron Guerin, inset, won a national award for his work restoring this villa in Cambridge.

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