



Homes of distinction by design

LIZ McDONALD looks at the winning homes in an architectural design competition.

‘Liveliness and charm’, “bold and elegant”, “robust forms”, “fine detailing”. These were among the compliments bestowed by judges in the Architectural Designers New Zealand contest last night.

The contest, sponsored by Resene, recognises the best homes and commercial buildings and interiors created by architectural designers across the country. The awards are in addition to those run for homes designed by architects, and House of the Year awards for builders.

Two of the five winning residential properties in last night’s awards were in the South Island, and three in the north.

The supreme winner was a Waikato house designed using a “simple barn form”.

Barn-like structures were used to create the house, with the main sleeping and living quarters in one area, the entranceway and bathrooms in another, and a separate barn form for the garage.

Bricks recycled from the Christchurch earthquakes were used for cladding, as well as vertical run steel to continue the barn theme. A cedar-clad recess was cut at the centre of the house to provide a covered outdoor area which links to a deck.

The judges said of the Whatawhata house, designed by Tane Cox of Red Architecture: “Within, the inventive use of simple, often industrial materials invest the spaces with liveliness and charm.”

The home judged best over

300sqm is on Tuckerbeach Rd in Queenstown. Designed by Gary Todd of Gary Todd Architecture, it is a modernist home on a 4-hectare block. It was described as merging into the terraces overlooking the Shotover River, with views of Coronet Peak.

“The robust forms of this house match the scale and texture of the alpine landscape,” the judges said, noting it managed to “combine grandeur with intimate spaces”.

The best compact home (under 150sqm) was a coastal house in Auckland’s Red Beach, designed by David Maurice of Ltd Architecture.

Described as a small, simple and elegant coastal home, it sits on a very steep site. The building platform is suspended above the hillside, with a deck and canopy framing the view.

The judges praised its simple box form and good solar orientation. “The fine detailing of the interior and exterior supports the overall modest but sharp concept,” they said.

Best alterations and additions were in a Coromandel house redesigned by Kris Wilson of Design House Architecture. The house sits on a clifftop, and has “a simplistic contemporary aesthetic and layout to suit laid-back coastal living and ease of entertaining”.

The judges liked the conversion, saying the existing house had been absorbed into a clear disciplined plan with crisp detailing. “Colours and materials create a collection of calm spaces from which to enjoy the spectacular natural environment.”

The final residential winner was a set of Dunedin townhouses designed by Brent Alexander of The Design Studio.

The townhouses sit among Victorian houses and have a modern design with a traditional gabled form. They feature “thermally massive construction”

to provide acoustic separation between units, tiled first-floor decks with barbecue areas, and secluded courtyard gardens at ground level.

The judges said the designer had dealt with challenges such as heritage, planning and economic restraints, calling it “a worthy contribution to urban intensification”.



Top left clockwise; Dunedin: Modern townhouses designed to blend in. **Auckland:** Judged best compact home. **Waikato:** Barn-like design takes supreme award. **Coromandel:** Calm spaces in a spectacular environment.



Queenstown:
Combines
grandeur with
intimate spaces.

