

Homes *building*

new homes coast architect scores awards

A sustainably designed home in Reikorangi, a modern contemporary home in Waikanae and a gable-roofed home on a lifestyle block in Nikau Valley were all category winners or finalists in the Architectural Design New Zealand/Resene awards for the Wellington region.

The awards were presented in August in Palmerston North.

All three houses were designed by Peter Davis, architectural designer of AD Architecture in Paraparaumu Beach.

Waa Rata in Reikorangi earned Mr Davis the category title for a Residential New Single Dwelling up to 250 square metres, and the newly introduced Sustainable Design Award.

A house in Kohekohe Road in Waikanae, designed by Mr Davis in collaboration with his colleague Brynn McCauley, also won a major award, the Residential New Single Dwelling over 250 square metres.

The house in Nikau Valley won the Roof Design Award and both the Waikanae and Reikorangi homes were finalists in the Kitchen Award category.

Waa Rata, the property in Reikorangi, is a large, lifestyle property sited at the head of the Ngatiawa Valley with views of Kapiti to the west and backing onto Tararua Forest Park to the east, Peter says.

"I was fortunate to be able to assist my clients in site selection on the property. Together we agreed that a platform near the stream, with existing specimen rata



trees, was idyllic, affording great views as well as a sense of intimacy not always readily available on a farm block."

The rata trees were used as an inspiration for the interior, with an existing milled rata tree providing timber capping and a

breakfast bench in the kitchen.

The ADNZ Award judges said the home had "a visually appealing timeless design in two pods linked by a central gallery which enables the best views and outdoor flow to maximise the site. The living quality of this

eco-friendly, sustainable house is not diminished by its remote location.

In designing the award-winning sustainable aspects of the home, Peter was faced with a site with no grid supply of power,

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or connection to town supply water and district sewerage.

Power is supplied from a micro hydro system in the adjacent stream, and portable gas, while windows are placed to provide

passive ventilation and cooling when required.

A 25,000 litre water tank collects water from the house with a gravity feed, and sewage is collected in a multi-chamber waste treatment tank, purpose-designed for the site, with a disposal feed feeding native, naturally



occurring, wetland plantings.

The materials used throughout the house were chosen for their insulation qualities and as a natural response to the environment.

Peter says a film crew from the United States visited the house in April to feature the property in a sustainable living programme to be shown in the United States.

The house in Kohekohe Road, Waikanae was designed to meet his clients' brief of a

house with a modern contemporary look, with individual style and detailing.

Peter says the orientation of the house and its relationship to the gardens is considered in depth, with a desire to have all the living rooms and bedrooms facing north, getting maximum solar gain and views to the garden.

With outdoor living a priority, a sheltered

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barbecue and alfresco dining area is enhanced by careful design and placement of a water feature.

The award judges said in all areas this entry excelled – “site location, planning, materials, aesthetic appeal, liveability and energy efficiency. We found the client’s brief was more than fulfilled and found this property

difficult to fault”.

The third award-winning house, in Nikau Valley, won the Roof Design Award with judges remarking on the appropriateness of the gable roof for the rural setting.

Peter says a strong two-storey central gable end form is balanced with smaller gabled wings linked to the central core by low pitch pavilions. “Above the entrance a glazed

atrium was incorporated, flooding the spaces with dramatic light and views.”

The trifecta of winning houses caused the judges of the ADNZ Awards to call Mr Davis a “standout entrant” in the competition.

All category winners have gone through for further judging for the national finals of the ADNZ Awards, with the winners due to be announced tomorrow.

