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A seriously cool beachfront first home, with spectacular views of Mt Taranaki

Mikaela Wilkes · 19:30, May 14 2021

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breaks, has taken out a top architecture award at the Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects' (NZIA) awards.

The M + M House in Warea was celebrated as one of the best new houses in the Western region for 2021.

A young couple relocating to New Zealand from Montreal, and New Plymouth architects Boon devised the seriously cool beachfront first home.

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The high winds of the rugged west coast had to be carefully factored into the planning of this 100-square-metre house.

The larch cladding will weather with age, to blend in with the surrounding grassland and grey stony beaches.

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SANDRA HENDERSON

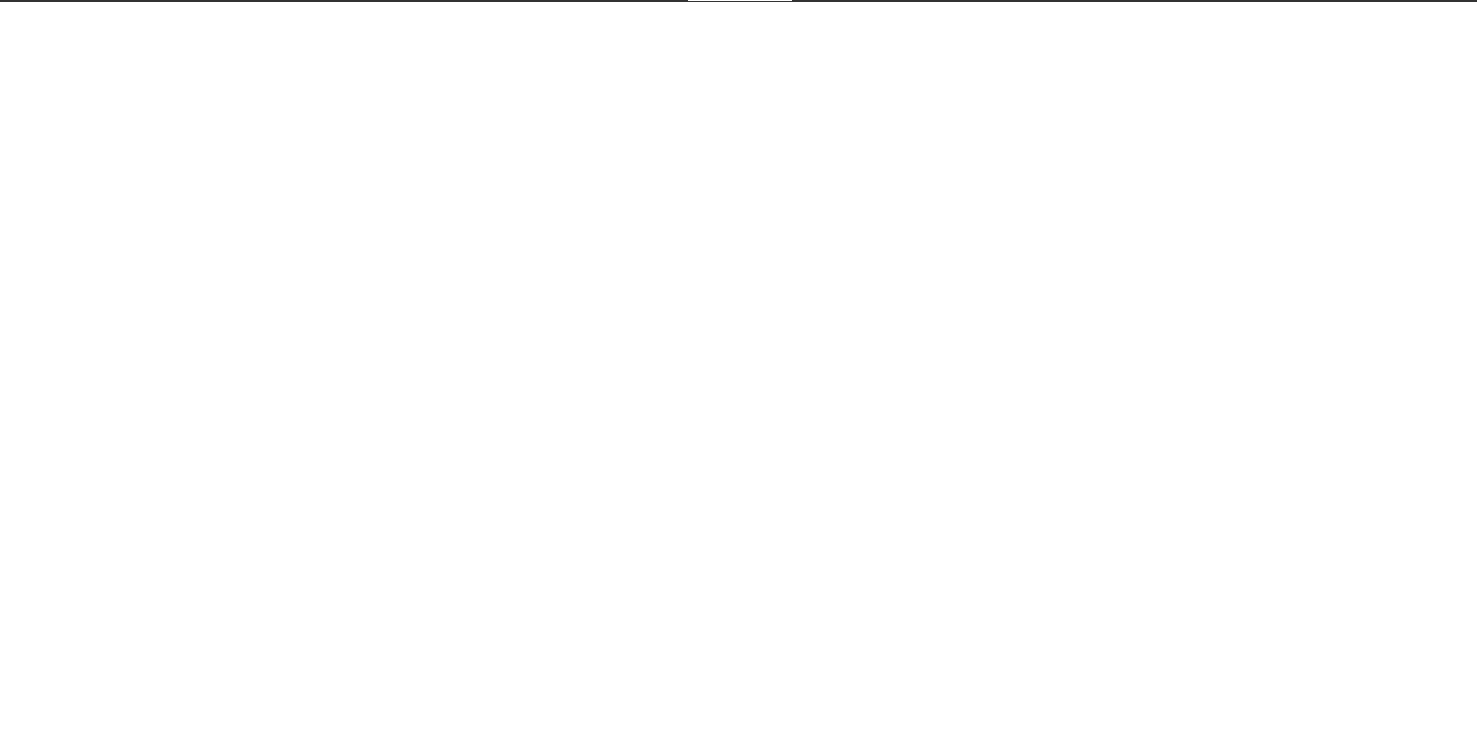
An leap of faith taken by a young couple relocating from Montreal to NZ has led to a seriously cool beachfront first home.

The orientation of the home and its long narrow structure maximises warmth from the sun. Solar panels were also added so, if desired, the home completely off-grid in the future.

The house is built on piles with timber framing, meaning it's lightweight enough to be easily relocated – a necessity for anyone wanting to build in the coastal area.

The award for M + M House, which is about 40 minutes' drive from New Plymouth, was one of three taken home by Boon, with the 47-year-old practice winning a second housing gong for Twigley Bach, which also boasts views of the mountain and surf, and an interior architecture award for TSB Bank workspace Mahi Tahi.

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SANDRA HENDERSON/SUPPLIED

Boon Architects picked up a second housing award for Twigley Bach in Taranaki.



SANDRA HENDERSON/SUPPLIED

The unique spot is a place where the whole family can truly relax and enjoy, arguably, the best sunsets in New Zealand.

SARAH HENDERSON/SUPPLIED

The warmth of the ply ceiling, wall linings, and kitchen cabinetry create a welcome interior retreat from the sweeping exposed coast outside.

The bach was designed with adaptable spaces to accommodate children, friends, and other guests that come to stay. It has a quirky bunk room with bi-folding doors that open out to make an open space for activities.

The bunk room has views to the ocean and back through the glass to the living and kitchen area so that parents can keep a watchful eye.

The warmth of the ply ceiling, wall linings, and kitchen cabinetry create a welcome interior retreat from the sweeping exposed coast outside.

SARAH HENDERSON/SUPPLIED

This space is really what childhood memories are made of, a space to spend time with family and friends with nature's playground on the doorstep.

Palmerston North practice 242am Architects also took home a housing category award, for its energy-efficient and passive Stewart Residence, described by jurors as “an easy and comfortable place to live and entertain in”, as did Felicity Wallace Architects’ Small Town House – which sits at the end of a country lane in a small Manawatu town.

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ANDY KRUY/SUPPLIED

Stewart Residence was described by jurors as “an easy and comfortable place to live and entertain in”.

ISABELLA LOUDON/SUPPLIED

Small Town House by Felicity Wallace Architects.

Te Hono – New Plymouth Airport Terminal by Beca Architects.

PATRICK REYNOLDS/SUPPLIED

Further south, Whanganui's Ridgway Chambers by Drawing Room Architecture & Design, won an award for heritage architecture.

Judges described the apartments and gallery space as contributing to the reactivation of a leafy CBD area earmarked for future urban regeneration.

STEVE CAUDWELL/SUPPLIED

Judges described the apartments and gallery space as contributing to the reactivation of a leafy CBD area earmarked for future urban regeneration.

And on State Highway 1 in Bulls, the long awaited Te Matapihi Community Centre by Architecture Workshop, which opened last year, was praised by the jury as a signifier of the beginning of a new civic centre for the Rangitikei town.

Three enduring architecture awards were also presented, celebrating buildings 25 years or older that have stood the test of time.

PAUL L MARCROFT/SUPPLIED

The rarely seen Officers Barracks and Mess building at Waiouru Military Camp took out one of three enduring architecture awards.

The first went to the 1984 Eddie Belchambers-designed Officers Barracks and Mess building at Waiouru Military Camp, a rarely seen wood and concrete structure that cascades down a forested hillside, with spectacular views of Mt Ruapehu.

The remaining two enduring architecture awards went to Palmerston North buildings: David Taylor's modernist Te Manawa Te Papaioea Manawatu Art Gallery (1977), which was inspired by a trip to the Australian National Gallery in Canberra, where Taylor also met his wife.

And John Scott's Te Rau O Te Aroha – Māori Battalion Hall, which was built in 1964 to remember the soldiers of the 28th Māori Battalion who died in the Second World War.

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– kaba 2 weeks ago
Looked a bit cold and bare of comfort as in feel good .
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– LeafySeaDragon 2 weeks ago
Interested to know how much this first home cost.

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design and building teams and of course the owners, happy days

👍 Respect 3 ↩ Reply ➦ Share

– **nomoregreed** 2 weeks ago

↩ In reply to **Rightofcentre**

Before praising the design and building teams too much you need to ask is it going to be warm in winter? What is it like when a cold southerly blows? Heatable without breaking the bank? Is it weathertight?

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– **barm** 2 weeks ago

↩ In reply to **nomoregreed**

Ahhh well it has to comply with current building regulations which captures all the questions you raise.

👍 Respect 5 ↩ Reply ➦ Share

– **nomoregreed** 2 weeks ago

↩ In reply to **barm**

For something to win an award one would expect it to be outstanding. That means that structures that do nothing more than meeting current building regulations with all the flaws on the thermal envelope are not worth an award IMO.

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– **nomoregreed** 2 weeks ago

No information about the essentials such as the thermal envelope build up and thermal rating, thermal rating of joinery, energy consumption and so forth.

"Awards" with no substance reflecting the state of the industry all just pretentious to be of some class. At the end the question needs to be asked which one is leaking first? Which one will be demolished in less than ten years?

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– **M1961h** 2 weeks ago

↩ In reply to **nomoregreed**

Why would it. This is not a technical article. Im willing to bet none of them will leak and all of them will be standing way longer than ten years. In fact the barracks already have.

👍 Respect 5 ↩ Reply ➦ Share

– **nomoregreed** 2 weeks ago

↩ In reply to **M1961h**

That is exactly the problem. The industry omits the performance talk about the building and give an impression the things you don't see are not important to know about.

Why? Because they simply don't deliver on the performance side and cut the corners on anything not meeting the eye, all "compliant" to an outdated "building code" which let's them get away with it. Aluminium joiners avoid conversations about R-value and condensation because they can't deliver 21st century results.

Now and in the coming hours many people in newish flash looking houses wake up to a freezing cold house, heat it up only to blow it out through the windows and walls

feeling heat like a sign

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↩ In reply to **nomoregreed**

The industry does talk about building performance, I know because I'm in it, if you want technical articles your looking in the wrong place

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– **Forty2** 2 weeks ago

↩ In reply to **nomoregreed**

Huge assumptions w.r.t. the coastal dwelling. Look at the thickness of the window reveals and wall thickness (not the external pop-out box window frames). It suggests a framing thickness beyond Code 90mm for single level dwelling and is likely packed with high rated insulation. The owners lived in Montreal, they know about cold. I know of houses in St Arnaud, with low maintenance corrugated iron cladding and roof. Not a single leak, 145mm framing and high spec insulation. Sunny -4C outside and 18C on the inside without heating. We all know Code is minimum standard and it need lifting, but that does not mean all owners build to minimum. You worry about aluminium frames. Yes they are great conductors and a thermal weakness, but by area people should be more concerned with window size. Triple glazing is well below the thermal rating of an insulated wall, so size is more the issue.

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