

ITINERARY n.49

NOT ON MAP



To commemorate 120 years of women's suffrage, and 20 years since the landmark *Constructive Agenda* exhibition, this year's Auckland Architecture Week is being run by Architecture+Women in collaboration with the NZIA Auckland Branch. This guide presents recent award-winning buildings by women architects.

Omaha House. Image courtesy of Emma-Jane

Architecture by Women 2003-2013

"Only god or her would ever know just how many great solutions with the imprimatur of one of the male heroes of SOM, owed so much to her, than was attributed by either SOM or the client" (Nathaniel Owings, Autobiography, 1988). American architect Natalie De Bois, who died this year aged 92, was a significant if not critical force behind the career of one of the early Pritzker Prize winners, her "boss" Gordon Bunshaft. The low visibility of women working in architecture is one of the primary reasons behind the creation of the Architecture+Women•NZ website database.

A Block itinerary based on gender may be controversial to some; itineraries based on other themes are unlikely to be. Architectural projects are often grouped by theme – the buildings of a decade, for example, or those generated by a single client or which reflect a social movement. It is often easiest, though, to study architecture through its author, and itineraries such as these most often present the output of a single architect or practice. While this is easily accessible and can provide a personal touch, it creates complex issues of authorship. All publication - from magazines to academic articles and books - presents difficulties, and the omission of project teams can subsume talented individuals under the banner of practices. Conversely, where specific team members are named, work can be attributed to them rather than the practice, despite the practice's track record. When researching this itinerary, the difficulty of acknowledging the many talented architects of both genders became very apparent. There are many excellent buildings by women not included here, due to authorship issues in both publication and awards structures (eg. award submission forms that can lead to the inadvertent omission of relevant team members).

One way to measure the visibility of women architects in NZ is to examine the NZIA National Awards program. This itinerary looks only at award-winning work at the 'New Zealand Architecture Award' level, and includes work produced throughout NZ from 1993 to 2013. This 20-year period covers the time between the two Architecture and Women exhibitions – 1993's *Constructive Agenda* and the national A+W•NZ exhibition held in September 2013. It offers an insight into the rate of change in the industry around gender equity and workplace culture. These selection criteria would supposedly reveal the projects, led by women, which have been awarded National Level Awards - to see what is visible at the top. There were not as many examples as we expected, with perhaps the most surprising result being the lack of women-led practices working at this level. Many of the practices included here have strong male leaders, with the tendency for the female component to be dropped off in the minds of those considering the work. This is a frequent occurrence, as the current controversy around Denise Scott-Brown's exclusion from Robert Venturi's 1991 Pritzker Prize reminded us. This is not just a historical phenomenon - Mike Austin's recent letter to the editor in *Architecture NZ* pointed out the dropping of the female team members when abbreviating male and female duos (*Architecture NZ* Jan./Feb. 2013).

Another revelation was that there are many more awarded projects designed by women than those listed here. These have been deliberately excluded to call attention to the publishing practice that leaves no trace of the women involved in design teams. Such issues of authorship and recognition obviously extend across gender, and A+W•NZ firmly believe that focusing on a single (and not insignificant) group within the wider architectural community will benefit everyone. *Megan Rule & Lynda Simmons*

1

2004

Heart of PQ
Vistavile Showgrounds, Prague
Massey School of Design

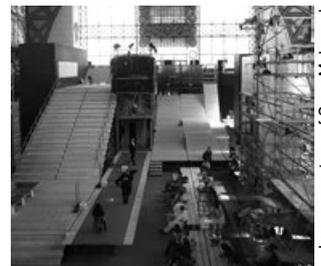


Image courtesy of Sven Mehzoud

This collaborative design was led by Dorita Hannah of Massey School of Design. Experimenting with the temporal quality of theatre and the nature of exhibitions, it was created as a part of the Prague Quadrennial 2003. The originality and depth of the project was commended as it won an NZIA Regional Architecture Award in 2004. Synthesising exhibitionism with scenography, the hall of Prague's Industrial Palace was temporarily transformed into a landscape of performance. The significance of the design lies in its outstanding merging of collaboration, research and performance. Design Director: Dorita Hannah
See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2004.

2

2005

Expressions Art Centre
836 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt
Architecture+



Image courtesy of Architecture+

This community arts centre and theatre is regarded as a civic asset to Upper Hutt. A delicate balance between the sensitivity towards the scale of its surrounds and the striking visual presence of the design is evident in the merging of geometric volumes. A slatted external cube with a glass façade reveals a bright red internal cylinder that appears to hover above the ground level, housing the theatre and other intentionally concealed facilities. The Architecture+ design team have carefully considered the use of colour and materiality to assist with the navigation and understanding of the building. Project and Design Team Architect: Anne Salmond.

3

2005

Landscape & Plant Sciences Bldg
UNITEC, Carrington Rd, Mt Albert
Mitchell Stout Architects



From the 2005 NZIA National Award jury citation: "An intimate arrangement of offices and ancillary spaces is used to form a courtyard which reinterprets the Oxbridge model of tertiary buildings in a delightfully informal and contemporary South Pacific way." Design and documentation team included Julie Stout & Ginny Pedlow; Site architect: Ginny Pedlow. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2005.

4

2006

Omaha Holiday House
Omaha
Aimer Naismith Architects
(now Scarlet Architects)



Image courtesy of Emma-Jane Hetherington

From the 2006 NZIA NZ Award for Architecture jury citation: "A well thought out response to a coastal house type in a new subdivision. Both the conceptual layout of the house and the detailed resolution demonstrate a clear architectural understanding of the contemporary holiday house and the difference between urban living and the beach. References to other types of sub-tropical architecture abound. The careful and appropriate selection of materials reinforces the concept of the beach house." Project Architect: Lindley Naismith. Team: Linda Wong, Mike Dowsett. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2006.

5

2007

Canna House
Days Bay, Wellington
Tennent Brown Architects



Image courtesy of Paul McCredie

Engaging with the surrounding beech forest and mature gardens, this house design was the result of the clients' need to construct a larger family house. The materials of the existing house were partially reused, and solar design, water heating and rainwater capture were all integral to the design. Project Team: Hugh Tennent, Ewan McMaster. Project Architect Interiors: Sharon Jansen. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2007.

6

2007

Newmarket Cottage
Newmarket, Auckland
Aimer Naismith Architects
(now Scarlet Architects)



Image courtesy of Emma-Jane Hetherington

From the 2007 NZIA NZ Award for Architecture jury citation: "A delightful bright addition to a two-storey workers' cottage. The original building has been retained and its volume duplicated with a new double height living space to the rear. Both the old house and the beautiful, tropically inspired garden are revealed through its simple open-endedness. The front elevation has been redressed with a flexible layer of louvres for privacy and ventilation to the street, which punch up its street presence." Project Architect: Lindley Naismith. Team: Linda Wong. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2007.

7

2008

Colin McCahon Artist Residence
67 Otitori Bay Road, Titirangi
Bossley Architects



Image courtesy of Bossley Architects

From the architects' statement: "Located in French Bay, Waitakere, next to the cottage where the renowned painter Colin McCahon and his family lived during a seminal period of his painting in the 1950s, this artist's residence and studio twists and turns in between the existing native trees. ... The living wing nestles into but does not touch the bank beside the road while the studio projects out among the branches of the trees to offer peace and solitude for the visiting artist... This all contributes to the effect of this building as a planar composition on legs, a 21st Century tree house." Design Architects: Pete Bossley & Andrea Bell. Project Architect: Andrea Bell. Project Team: Tim Lane, Don McKenzie, Karen Ngan Kee. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2008.

8

2008

Drift Bay House
Queenstown
Kerr Ritchie Architects



A deep sense of understanding of site context, form, environmental factors, microclimate and material are celebrated in this house design in Queenstown. Exuding experimentation, the design boasts a multi-faceted, zigzag shaped plan that frames the landscape and creates spatial moments in an effective and liveable manner. Materiality is differentiated upon reaching the entry of the house, lined with cedar boards that contrast with the rest of the house that is colour steel clad. Architect: Bronwyn Kerr with Peter Ritchie. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2008 and *Houses NZ* Issue 8, 2008.

9

2009

Tauranga Art Gallery
Tauranga
Mitchell Stout Architects



Image courtesy of Julie Stout

The art gallery rejuvenates a tired street corner within Tauranga's CBD through the remodelling of an existing 1960's bank building. Creative use of Bondor Panels for exterior cladding and bursts of colour speak of art, and the interior walls, mezzanine level galleries and feature staircase position that art as a central focus through a multitude of viewpoints. Addressing issues such as street frontage through generous full-height glazing, exposing the atrium space and an inviting entrance, along with simple interior navigation, engagement and interaction with this newfound civic amenity show what can be achieved. Design and documentation team included Julie Stout, Ginny Pedlow. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2009 and Jan./Feb. 2008.

10

2009

Leigh House
26 Kowhai Terrace, Leigh
Tennant Brown Architects



From architects statement: "We imagined the house as slipping up out of the cliff, as one strata moving against another. The weathered Lawson's Cypress cladding was chosen to merge with the trees surrounding the property. We saw the house as part of the cliff. The way you move through the house follows this same idea, slipping through spaces, compressed in places and in others released..." Design & Project Architect: Sharon Jansen. Project Team: Ana O Connell, Neil Drummond. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2009.

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2010

Te Kura Kaupapa Maori & Te Kohanga Reo Mana Tamakiri
165 Grey Street, Palmerston Nth
Tennent Brown Architects



Image courtesy of Paul McCredie

Integral to the success of this design was the architect's understanding of clients needs, both cultural and functional and challenging the design of a Maori School in Palmerston North. The driving concept behind the design is the result of this deep understanding- with the creation of spiritual and physical connection between spaces throughout the building underneath a nurturing and sheltering cloak-like timber roof. An innovative material palette compliments the design as a response to budget constraints. Project Team and Project Architect-Interiors: Sharon Jansen. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2010.

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2011

Frankton Bus Shelter & Toilets
Kawerau Road, Queenstown
Mary Jowett Architects



Image courtesy of Mary Jowett

Designed by Mary Jowett, this well considered infrastructural project serves as a fine example for the potentials of civic architecture in Queenstown. Providing shelter and convenience, the architect has addressed both the experiential and the functional, and a simple material palette expresses both durability and permanence. The design was awarded an NZIA Southern Architecture Public Architecture Award in 2010, and an NZIA National Architecture Award in 2011 in the Urban Design category. Project Architect: Mary Jowett See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2011.

13

2012

Mt Iron House
Queenstown
Crosson Clarke
Carnachan Chin Architects



Boldly described as "the best work of architecture for miles around", this restrained holiday house design won an award for Small Project Architecture in the NZIA Architecture Awards in 2012. Perched upon the vast foothills of Mount Iron in central Otago, the gabled design is reminiscent of the Kiwi tramping hut or shearing shed. Two separate building volumes allow for an internal courtyard and extensive verandah decking and the tin and plywood cladding exemplify an appreciation of the vernacular attention to craft and detail. Architect: Annemarie Chin See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2012.

14

2012

Under Pohutukawa
Piha
Herbst Architects



From the 2012 NZIA NZ Award for Architecture Jury citation: "From the road, this beach house, in its opened-up summer configuration, reads as an encampment; up close, it is experienced as a beautifully sited verandah. The house is a beguiling essay in the relationship between structure and setting, order and nature, requirements and responsibilities." Design: Nicola Herbst & Lance Herbst. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2012. Other Herbst Architects NZIA National Award-winners include the 2008 Lindale Bach, Great Barrier (see *Architecture NZ* May/June 2008) and the 2002 Herbst Meiring Bach, Great Barrier (see *Architecture NZ* May/June, 2002).

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2013

Wellington Zoo Hub & Kamala's Pavilion
200 Daniell St, Wellington
Assembly Architects



Image courtesy of Jet Productions

Evidence of a desire to experiment with fabrication, create maximum output within budget constraints, and collaborate with an engineer are notable in this project, which won the NZIA Small Project Architecture Award in 2012. The connection between the Pavilion and the previous elephant house was approached with sensitivity to enable full appreciation of the elegantly vaulted steel frame. Architect: Louise Wright with Justin Wright See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2013.

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2013

Re:Start Christchurch
Christchurch
Buchan Group



Image courtesy of John Suckling

Re:Start Christchurch is a significant design. Arranged in a liberal configuration around the existing Cashel Mall, two precincts consisting of 60 retrofitted shipping containers have been temporarily located. This shipping container precinct both serves as a social and physical catalyst for the redevelopment of Christchurch, and also exists as an influential typological model, with the offset containers allowing sunlight to penetrate in-between spaces that are enjoyable to linger around, offering a retail experience at a human scale. Project Team: Raylene McEwan Senior Associate See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2013, and *Landscape Architecture NZ* 12, 2011.

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2013

Solar Decathlon First Light House
Faculty of Architecture + Design
Victoria University of Wellington



Image courtesy of Tobias Danielmeier

The First Light house was designed by Victoria University Students for the International Solar Decathlon, a biennial competition with specific sustainability criteria. Constructed in Canadian Cedar, the plan reinvented the Kiwi Bach. It was chosen for exhibiting on The National Mall in Washington DC and awarded the NZIA International Architecture Award in 2012. Students: Lizzie Earl, Anna Farrow, Belinda Dod, Bronwyn Phillips and Amanda Crosby. Staff: Diane Brand (Head of School Architecture/ Dean Faculty of Architecture and Design), Rosaleen Loughman and Sophie Prebble. See *Architecture NZ* May/June 2013, *Progressive Building* 8, 2011, *Urbis* 63, 2011.