

Supreme Award for Auckland War Memorial Museum

The Auckland War Memorial Museum's stunning new Grand Atrium received the accolade of Supreme Winner of the Property Council of New Zealand's Annual Awards held at the Sky City Convention centre in Auckland last night.

Meeting the challenge of bringing a national heritage building into the 21st century was recognised by the judges with the Prime Minister Helen Clark, presenting the Rider Levett Bucknall Supreme Award for 2007 to the Auckland War Memorial Museum's Grand Atrium project.

The judges said they were impressed with the total scope of the project, the attention to detail and the commitment and co-operation of all stakeholders in the delivery of a unique project that incorporated stunning architectural and engineering features into a landmark Auckland building.

The chief judge of the awards, John Dunn said: "The new atrium is a world class, future-proofed facility that will provide tangible benefits to New Zealand for generations to come".

The renovation of the Museum's southern courtyard resulted in a 60% increase in the overall footprint of the museum. The new facility has a strong focus on visitors to the museum with new seven-storey building featuring enhanced visitor amenities and services and new exhibition space and storage.

The new atrium also allows the public to watch restorers at work and features a top-floor event space and purpose-built lecture theatre that are already in demand as top-class venues in Auckland City.

Museum Director, Dr Rodney Wilson said the project was about taking an institution that lay at the heart and mind of so many people and taking it from being run down to becoming as good – in terms of its exhibitions, interpretations and its presentation – as any museum, anywhere in the world."

"It wasn't just about fixing up the building – it was about new legislation, it was about changes in governance, and a change in the culture," said Dr Wilson.

Judges of this year's Property Council awards also noted the high quality of the entries and the trend towards eco-friendly design and sustainable use.

This was reflected among the entries and winners with Waitakere City's new council building in Henderson (Auckland) and Wellington City's new Conservation House also featuring among the award winners.

Paul Duffy, Property Council National President and Chief Executive of Dominion Funds said the Council was sure this trend would develop further in the near future and noted another lift in the standard of entries.

"We were also pleased to see top quality entries from regional centres this year like the Whangarei Central Library."

All award winners for 2007

SUPREME AWARD

Auckland War Memorial Museum - Grand Atrium Project, Auckland

EDUCATION & ARTS

Excellence The New Dowse, Lower Hutt, Wellington

Excellence Whangarei Library, Whangarei

Merit Auckland City Central Library Redevelopment, Auckland

Merit School of Engineering Library & Student Centre, Auckland

Merit Westlake Boys High School, Auckland

Merit Silverdale Primary School, Auckland

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Conservation House

INDUSTRIAL

Excellence Perron Storage Mt Eden, Auckland

Merit Linfox Logistics, Auckland

Merit Mico Plumbing, Christchurch

MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL

Excellence The Quadrant, Auckland

OFFICE

Excellence 22 Viaduct Harbour Ave, Auckland

Excellence Conservation House, Wellington

Merit Old National Bank Building, Dunedin

Merit Zone 23, Auckland

RETAIL

Excellence Broadway Junction, Auckland

Merit Nuffield St, Auckland

Merit Remarkables House, Remarkables Park Town Centre, Queenstown

SPECIAL PURPOSE

Excellence Auckland War Memorial Museum - Grand Atrium Project, Auckland

Excellence Waitakere Civic Centre, Auckland

Merit North Shore Policing Centre, Auckland

Merit Auckland Region Women's Correction Facility, Auckland

TOURISM & LEISURE

Merit Manurewa Aquatic & Leisure Centre, Auckland

URBAN DESIGN

Waitakere Civic Centre, Auckland

URBAN LAND DEVELOPMENTS

Merit Far Horizon Park, Wanaka

- ENDS -

For further information regarding PCNZ, please contact:

Tina Berry, Marketing Director, PCNZ

M: 021 546 665 - ddi: 09 300 9582 - f: 09 379 0781

Or

Connal Townsend, Chief Executive, PCNZ

M: 021 781 482 – p: 09 373 3086 – f: 09 379 0781

For further information or comment on any of the award winners please contact:

Chief Judge, John Dunn, Director, John Dunn Consultancy

M: 021 933 581

For more information regarding interview opportunities at the awards, with key guests and winners, please contact:

Emma Mildon, PR/Communications, Trends Media Services,

M: 021 455294 – ddi: 09 571 5749 – email: emma@trendsm mediaservices.com

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