



## NZILA RESENE PRIDE OF PLACE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2010

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN CATEGORY CITATIONS

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#### 2a Waiheke Coastal Garden

**GOLD and**

**Resene Colour Award of Excellence**

**Ted Smyth**

This stunning garden has a sense of completeness. A carefully considered and orchestrated work of art, the site has been treated as a three dimensional canvas. Structurally the garden is a continuous flow of spaces that specifically address each of the clients' needs. Earthworks are minimal, in keeping with the sensitivity of the site, retainment has only been used to emphasise viewing platforms. The level of thinking is consistent from the broad sweeping sea of *Poas* to the bold foliage contrasts to the minimal timber steps to access the far corners of the garden. A restrained and consistent palette of materials, plant combinations and attention to detail makes this an outstanding example of landscape architecture's role in home-making.

#### 2a Ferndale Subdivision

**GOLD**

**Isthmus Group Ltd**

A well executed subdivision design. A strong example of the ease of introducing basic WSUD without overtly affecting the style of the lots or development. Commended for the advocacy role of delivering WSUD to the main stream buyer without being oppressively green. Sound site planning making good use of the topography for lot placement coordination and amenity. Wetlands are well sited in middle of development providing good water treatment and recreational facilities. This project was impressive because the judges felt it delivered a successful and well integrated green message and sustainability principles to the average subdivision.



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#### **2a Gardiner Mackenzie Garden**

##### **SILVER**

##### **Moorhead & Newdick Landscape Architects**

A trickily shaped block producing odd angles on all sides. The designer has been able to achieve a garden space that floats inside this awkward geometry and limited space to produce a living environment that extends the architectural qualities of the house and provides depth to the rear section. The hedges are effective in providing a number of alcoves within which to create the detail that gives this design the depth and richness. It's a shame the art layer and fire were not realized. These elements would really add the wow dimension to this creative solution.

#### **2a The Parc**

##### **SILVER**

##### **Natural Habitats Ltd**

A 10 year old design that has matured and endured very well. Only the gravel paths were now being tested by the introduction of young children into the client mix. Guerrilla gardening seemed to be creeping in as well, but this

minimal intervention didn't detract from the strong concept. Planting design is bold and strong with minimal species giving a high level of privacy to the lower floor courtyards and buffering of the central space. The central oval was a good foil to the rectangular enclosure. Its elongation providing a secluded and peaceful central space with each end highlighted by two solid pergolas. It is surprising to know that the whole thing is actually a roof garden, forward-thinking for its time. Probably the only technical flaw is the limited soil depth to certain areas requiring higher watering frequency. The site is dominantly bounded by multilevel apartments yet provides an open and tranquil heart to the complex.



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#### **2b Te Whanau a Tupuranga**

**GOLD and**

**Resene Colour Award of Excellence**

**Jasmax**

A stunning and graphic design which creates a clean and crisp connectivity between a range of school buildings both new and old. The strongly Maori design character has responded innovatively to the client's needs and enhances the sense of community and place for this school environment. The judges felt that this was an outstanding example of school design at its best, a space that enhances the learning experience, social fabric and interaction of students, staff and parents while being easily maintained. The implementation was flawless, with a level of detailing which has added to the overall cohesiveness of the design.

#### **2b Queenstown Airport Landscape Development**

**GOLD and**

**Resene Colour Award of Excellence**

**Blakely Wallace Associates**

It is rare to see a project of this nature that has maintained its integrity from centre to edge and has achieved a plant palette in a public environment that is both beautiful and maintainable. This project has an extremely strong planting design that binds the whole site together. Even the isolated beds between road edge and boundary have the same depth of thought as the splendid mass planting that serenades both the arriving and departing visitors to Queenstown. The planting palette is not only functional but also aesthetic, manipulating the inherent colours of the native and exotic species to their utmost. There is a clear understanding of the beauty of the local flora and this is skillfully articulated to provide a sense of place that compares with the sites "Remarkable" location. The site planning provides a sound canvas for this planting design. The layout has a logic that is usable straight from the car door with an intuitive approach to circulation and the leading of users through the site.



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#### **2b St John College Library Entrance**

##### **GOLD**

##### **Boffa Miskell Ltd**

A skilful and mature solution. The paved link has been creatively treated to ensure good connectivity with existing areas and spaces. The fragmentation of the edges has fitted the path into the existing feel of the grounds and so

doing offers natural linkages to the required seating and contemplative spaces. This paving is exceptionally well handled as it merges with the interior carpet tiles across the airlock threshold, providing a brilliant outdoor-in connection.

#### **2b Flaxmere Primary**

##### **SILVER**

##### **Shannon Bray Landscape Architect**

Whilst the on ground design output appears very low key, a significant amount of work has gone in behind the scenes. This project is commended for the role the landscape architect has played in facilitating a whole of school

solution within tight constraints. This project also displays the additional roles and outcomes that a good design can produce. The children of the school have taken ownership of the design emphasizing the social capital that the landscape architect has built within the school and the community. The landscape architect has been very cognitive of the weakness of the budget and has been able to implement an effective amount of work with the funds available. Some simple site planning has enabled a significant increase in functionality of the existing oval space.



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#### **2b Stoke Medical Centre**

##### **SILVER**

##### **Meadow Landscape Architecture**

##### **Stoke Medical Centre**

This is a busy medical practice in a residential area.. The Designer has responded innovatively to the client's need for privacy . On a standard suburban block the designer has done well to provide car parking, entrance and a staff courtyard for this busy medical centre. The use of a bespoke green wall to provide privacy within the constrained space of the consulting room wings is inspired and illustrates a clever understanding of the potential for this new style of vertical planting. The designer has well understood the site planning requirements for this site and has been able to develop solutions that maximize the amenity for both the staff and patients. Whilst the designer has achieved a humanizing touch to the planting design it still portrays a crisp professional feel for the business.

#### **2b Lauriston Park**

##### **BRONZE**

##### **Bespoke Landscape Architects**

A well conceived master plan providing a crisp institutional look whilst having a homely feel at ground level. The idea to leave existing trees as a clump and utilize as a central entrance feature very good. Community centre planting had home garden plants included but could have gone further to achieve the feel they were after especially around the chess area. There was a good seating arrangement highly suitable to the clientele. The internal streets had a very homely feel, especially with everybody's front door wide open. Lack of side fences and room for individuals planting made the streets very liveable. Reuse of existing homestead a good foil to new community centre.



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#### **2b Havelock North Primary**

#### **BRONZE**

#### **Shannon Bray Landscape Architect**

A simple and creative solution that provides multiple layers of understanding and connection. The solution works cross culturally and is of a scale that is just right for its intended client. Fun and serious, both at the same time.



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#### **2c Northcrest Plaza**

##### **GOLD**

##### **Thresher Associates**

A lovely treatment to a small corner town centre site. This design elegantly integrates a sense of community into the town centre with the use of whanau seating and a simple and well executed palette of materials which link with the remainder of the existing town centre. The judges could see the public using the space in the way it was intended, which highlights the potential influence of a small but simple design on an overall sense of community and social environment.

#### **2c Paeroa Civic Heart Revitalisation**

##### **GOLD**

##### **Soul Environments**

This was a very poignant solution. Paeroa has great history, both European and Maori, pages from both these stories are told through this simple but concise design. Each layer was clearly crafted without hindering the principal

concept of a civic heart, whilst adding to existing layers within the town. A lovely and joyful design.



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#### **2c Christchurch City Mall**

##### **GOLD**

**City Mall Alliance, Christchurch City Council, Isthmus Group, Reset Urban Design, Downer EDI Works**

This is a big project and as such needed a strong concept with defined design guides to make it work. It achieves this by providing a strong backbone for central Christchurch. There were subtle changes within the palette that made each block different. A crisp contemporary and extremely well detailed project, the detailing of most components was exquisite with innovative responses to constraints such as tree roots and seating requirements.

#### **2c Lower Hutt High Street**

##### **SILVER**

**Isthmus Group Ltd**

A well executed town centre upgrade. The limited and simple palette has assisted in creating a light and airy streetscape which is uncluttered and appropriate to the context. A good example of less is more in streetscape design.



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#### **2c Beach Front Lane Browns Bay**

##### **BRONZE**

##### **Isthmus Group Ltd**

This was a very thoughtfully done project changing a back lane into a useful and meaningful extension of the pedestrian network greatly improving the connection between the civic centre and the foreshore a great enhancement of the edge or junction. An appropriate level of detail and material selection. The choice of timber for the paving was in keeping with the feel of the area, minimized civil works and easily facilitated the need to go up and over the existing root balls. Such an opportunity was then capitalized on by forming a stepped edge and a deck event. The paving of the parallel parking with permeable paving avoids troublesome seaside drainage whilst providing much needed groundwater infiltration for the existing trees.

A paved area had a subtle light coloured pavers introduced that then picked up the flower colour of the planting. It is a shame that the same level of consideration wasn't applied to the connection with the existing paved square. The council needs to apply the considered thinking exhibited in this project to the adjoining car park.



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#### **2d St Patrick's Square**

#### **George Malcolm Supreme Award and**

#### **GOLD**

#### **Boffa Miskell Ltd**

#### **St Patrick's Square**

This is a superb project that works on many layers. The site had some significant restraints that could have unduly dominated the design response. First and foremost the dominating presence of the church was skillfully handled by the creation of a paved base layer that grounded the church and connected it into the Square. The design gave the church breathing space and respect. The water feature provided a unifying design element through all terraces. Whilst each part was unique their arrangement flowed through the design characterizing each space. Material choice provided a strong relation with the church further strengthening its connection with the Square. The spatial arrangement provided spatial variance for all users from retreating smokers to lunching workers to visiting mums. The first water element was particularly child friendly whilst performing its monumental role. Circulation routes were clearly defined without dissecting the park into unusable spaces, but consideration had been given with alternative detours through the central water element and lower terrace to maintain interest for frequent users.

#### **2d Routeburn Track Visitor Development**

#### **GOLD and**

#### **Sustainability Award of Excellence**

#### **Blakely Wallace Associates**

A superb display of restraint and the less is more mantra. It was hard to pick the interventions, which is a key contributor to this design's success. The judges believe the landscape architect truly understood not only the brief but also the landscape and the clients. This is the start of the Routeburn Track one of New Zealand's great walks. The building was extremely well placed (yes by the Landscape Architect) to focus you onto the tramp and experience you were about to undertake, for many the start of such a walk is an almost spiritual experience, the landscape design allowed the power of the surrounding landscape to cast its spell, there was no discernable start line you just drifted into the tramp lured by the greater landscape, coached by the immediate. The landscape architect had clearly



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understood his role and the materials at hand. The simplicity of the solution belies the dexterity that had been used to manipulate the sequence of events from arrival and donning your kit to swaying of the swing bridge and disappearing into the red and silver Tolkienesque beech forests. Car-parking had been carefully located behind the shelter and shielded by moraine like lunettes, paths amble in a sheep track fashion to the shelter, storm water swales were like mini braided rivers, and the tussock edged grassed forecourt oozed out from under the building. Furniture was simple timber benches big enough for a couple bodies and packs and their rearranged contents. The actual start was marked by two rocks and a simple DOC sign.

#### **2d Parkhill Farm**

#### **GOLD and**

#### **Sustainability Award of Excellence**

#### **Patrick Corfe Landscape Architects Ltd**

The judges felt this was one of the best examples of a truly integrated rural subdivision that they had seen. Technically it's a rural subdivision but it wasn't a subdivision, as we know it but a very careful incorporation of a dozen or so lots into the fabric of an existing productive farm. The Landscape Architect had understood the simplicity of the system he was working within; there are not an awful lot of elements within a rural landscape even an intensive one such as a vineyard. The design focuses on pattern or placement of the introduced elements, in this case the house lots and the resistance to the compulsive obsession to mark territory with ruralised fences.

It still remains to be seen if a building envelope alone is sufficient enough intervention to maintain the power of this landscape or if more statutory design controls are needed to support the integration of a new use into such a powerful landscape without short circuiting it.



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#### **2d Te Puru Bridge**

##### **GOLD**

##### **Isthmus Group Ltd**

Brilliant; a real joy. A completeness from design through detailing to construction. It worked on many layers, social cultural and physical. The bridge connected well with the existing path system

#### **2d Kick-a-Ball Park-Stonefields**

##### **SILVER**

##### **Natural Habitats Ltd in conjunction with James Lord**

A very well conceived, balanced and implemented design. This park had a very pleasant contemporary feel to it whilst still satisfying the requirements of a suburban residential park. Crisp and smart with out being minimalist, character and interest without being cluttered, durable without being boring. The playground was well thought out with many play opportunities both literal and inventive for all age groups. The planting was strong and interesting providing security and a sense of place. Spatial arrangement was excellent and the judges could see that this would be a park easily maintained as there was a focus on creating clear and easily maintained edges.

#### **2d Volcano Park Stonefields**

##### **SILVER**

##### **Natural Habitats Ltd in conjunction with James Lord**

Irrespective of its subdivision location the judges really liked this park. It highlighted that there is still room to have fun, it had no pretenses, you didn't need a doctorate to understand the layering, a good honest park with a solid design concept that still ticked all the good design boxes. It ably satisfied its role within the residential development and the distant connection to Mt Wellington and the Pa sites is subtle yet thoughtful. The literalness of colours and materials strengthen the design and give it depth.



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#### **2d Bayside Storm Water Reserve**

##### **BRONZE**

##### **Boffa Miskell Ltd**

A good solid design, but it still had a lack of completeness of thought in many areas, such as planting areas stopping short of unfenced boundaries for no apparent reason.

#### **2d Tupare-Taranaki Regional Gardens Project**

##### **BRONZE**

##### **Boffa Miskell Ltd**

It's great to see a LA involved in a project of this nature. It is hard to see the interventions of the LA, but those that were observed are very good and well considered. It would be so easy to put your own stamp on but to respect the history and just slip in that simple layer that adds without detracting is good.

#### **2d Firefighters Reserve**

##### **BRONZE**

##### **Wayne Rimmer in Association with Christchurch City Council**

There are some very clever aspects to this design and was overall a very pleasing design. This was a difficult site wedged into the crook of a very busy road junction . The isolation of the monument from the viewer gives it strength and dignity despite the ambient road noise. There are a number of contemplation opportunities and the planting is well handled, from the naturalistic at the river edge to the introduced at the junction with the buildings. A solid design that works.



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#### **2d The RSA Memorial**

##### **BRONZE**

##### **Chow:Hill**

A simple and delightful memorial space which tells a poignant story and elicits contemplation and appreciation. An excess of materials was overlooked as the strength of the overall design retained a sense of cohesion and clarity.

#### **2d Barry Curtis Park Northern Section**

##### **BRONZE**

##### **Isthmus Group Ltd**

A very impressive design and park, modern, a good comprehension of the scale of the site. It felt almost 2 dimensional, there was an impressive array of elements that had been well thought out, the storm water treatment was well done, but it lacked a cloaking to tie it all together, it's a very exposed site and it was felt that the tree layer would not achieve the completion of the spatial definition that the site and concept required and the trees were suffering badly from exposure and drought.. Detailing was exceptional.



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#### **2e The Ring - Public space armatures for a 21st century Auckland**

##### **SILVER**

##### **Boffa Miskell Ltd**

This project anticipates the recovery, development and restoration of the gully systems currently occupied by Auckland's central motorway junction. It is an original, creative and entirely believable solution to the potentialities of a future urban landscape not dominated by cars.

#### **2e New Zealand Memorial Park**

##### **BRONZE**

##### **Boffa Miskell Ltd**

This project aimed to improve the setting of Wellington's National War Memorial. It responds to and reflects the biophysical, historical and cultural elements inherent in the site and its surrounds in a contemporary manner and creates a new urban place for celebration and veneration.