



NZILA RESENE PRIDE OF PLACE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2010

LANDSCAPE DESIGN CATEGORY CITATIONS

Routeburn Track Visitor Development

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 designs 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 where 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 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.

Photos follow



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