

Waikato home designer wins big

Waikato house designers have won awards at regional level. This time they are being recognised for their efforts at national level. Greg Stack reports.

Two Hamilton architectural designers who dominated the Waikato-Bay of Plenty industry awards have scored big at their national awards.

Adrian Byrne from Byrne Architecture has now won national recognition for the new River Rd unit he designed, while Noel Jessop, of Noel Jessop Architecture, was a finalist in three categories of the Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ)-Resene 2007 National Design Awards.

The awards ceremony was held on South Stradbroke Island, off the Australian east coast last night. More than 230 designs were judged from around New Zealand.

Mr Byrne won the Dynex Residential Multi-unit Dwelling category for his River Rd entry. The judges described the home as “whimsical, funky and thought-provoking. It stretches the boundaries and exhibits an interesting use of spaces. We liked the punched-out steel frontage and the artistic use of stone”.

Mr Jessop, who won five awards in the Waikato-Bay of Plenty Awards, was a finalist in three categories of the national awards. Two of the nominations were for a house, believed to also be in River Rd, which was a finalist in the James Hardie Distinctive Design Award and the Trends Residential New Single Dwelling more than 250sq m) categories. A kitchen he designed was a finalist in the Applico Kitchen Award.

The River Rd home was described in the Waikato awards as “a simple, effective style of architecture. It addresses the brief, with seamless exterior living space, (it) typifies modern living”.

Mr Jessop’s seven-year-old firm also won trophies in the regional competition in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007.



ABOVE: Adrian Byrne’s design of this house in River Rd, Hamilton, won big at the national awards, while, Noel Jessop’s design of a kitchen, right, and house, far right, were finalists.

The general manager of Armitage Williams Construction, and a national award judge, Paul Blackler, was impressed at “the extremely high standards” of entries. “We looked at the execution of the design, the detail of the design and the overall aesthetics. The high standard wasn’t just one part of the country, there is a very high standard of design nationwide. It says good things about the nation.”

Hamilton City councillor Gordon Chesterman, who championed an ugly building competition, was pleased

with the Waikato recognition. “It’s really fantastic that the architects from the Waikato are winning such awards. It’s good to see that they’re doing something (future generations) can be proud of. For the architects to win is fantastic.”

Christchurch-based designer Cymon Allfrey, of Stanley-Joblin and Allfrey, was the big winner on the night, securing a staggering six awards, five of which were for the same project, a house in Christchurch.

