

Taranaki projects in the winners' circle

By KRISTI WETTON

SEVEN new projects in Taranaki have received top honours in the 2005 New Zealand Institute of Architects Resene Local Awards for Architects.

A total of 12 awards were presented for the Western region, which covers the main centres of Wanganui, New Plymouth and Palmerston North.

New Plymouth's Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Team Architecture picked up four awards.

The firm's winning designs were the New Plymouth bus centre, the Pacific International Hotel Management School's foyer and two residential properties.

The judges said the architects had clearly had fun with the bus centre project, creating an exuberant, playful building.

"Council's generous budget and confidence in the architect have been rewarded with a distinctive building."

The Taranaki Country Lodge, designed by New Plymouth's Elliot Architects, won an award in the hospitality and tourism category.

"This project has surpassed the client's expectations, providing them with a very functional lodge and a great budget outcome," the judges commented.

Auckland's Grant Boniface Architect received a residential and a colour award for a Urenui bach it designed.

Judging convenor Mark Southcombe said a

diverse range of projects was put forward.

He said innovation and detailing were evident. "This was true for projects of modest size and budget as it was for those without such restrictions.

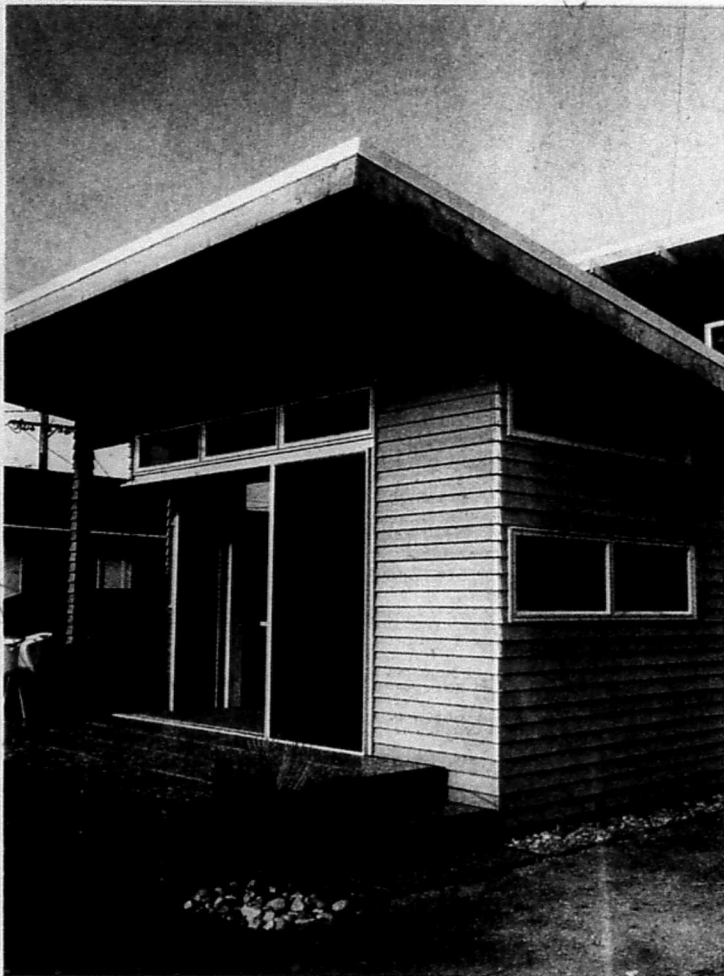
"It indicates the real value of clear architectural thinking and the skill that these architects have developed over the time that they have been in practice."

He said the quality of architecture indicated that some of the local award winning projects could go on to receive national award honours.

"The tailored responses we saw to client needs and wishes were, in some instances, surprising, and quite stunning."



WINNING STYLE: The New Plymouth bus centre, designed by Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Team Architecture, won a community and cultural award.



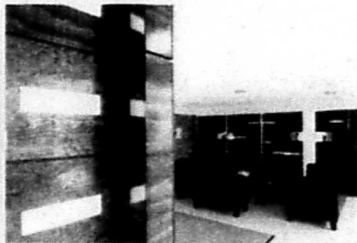
ELEGANT HOME: This New Plymouth house won Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Team Architecture a residential award.



SUMMER DELIGHT: Auckland-based Grant Boniface Architect won a residential award and a colour award for this Urenui bach.



FORMAL PRESENCE: Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar won a second residential award for this New Plymouth home.



FLASH FOYER: The foyer of the Pacific International Hotel Management School, by Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Team Architecture.



FUNCTIONAL LODGE: The Taranaki Country Lodge was designed by Elliot Architects and won an award in the hospitality and tourism category.