



Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016

CIVIC TRUST AWARDS 2016



The new Sumner Surf Life Saving Pavilion

After an elapse of more than five years since the destructive 2011 earthquakes empty spaces in our city are slowly being filled as rebuilding moves on apace, and there are now signs of how new streetscapes are going to look in the future.

Whilst emphasis is unquestionably on the new there are a number of heritage building survivors to which owners have been able to give new life, some of whom are recognized among the awards this year. The 2016 awards have a strong presence of building projects concerned with the revitalization of communities and awards are given not only to inner city projects but several located further afield in Sumner, Tai Tapu and Charteris Bay.

This year the trust received 22 nominations and there are 7 awards and 1 commendation in three categories of the award criteria being presented.

The 2016 awards sub-committee is: Vivien Bishop, Lynn Campbell, Trevor Lord, Joanna Mackenzie, Penny Orme and Neil Roberts (Convenor)

Category A

A project that has made a material and beneficial change to the City environment, involving either development on a new site or re-development of an existing site or structure

Sumner Surf Life Saving Pavilion

Citation: *The Christchurch Civic Trust recognises excellence of architectural design and the contribution made to the revitalisation of the Sumner community.*

The Sumner Surf Life Saving Club pavilion has been welcomed by the Sumner community who see it as the new gateway building to Sumner village.



Interior of Sumner Surf Life Saving Pavilion

The Sumner Surf Life Saving club was formed in 1911 and two years later a pavilion was built. From the late 1940s tidal erosion took its toll on Sumner beach resulting in this pavilion needing to be relocated, and in 1956 a pavilion was built on the present site.

After the 2011 earthquakes this pavilion was found to have been substantially damaged and the club decided to replace it.

The new pavilion has been designed by local Sumner Architects Wilson and Hall, with engineering by Aurecon.

The 300 sq/m building includes a rescue boat shed, lifesaving control tower, a first aid room,

function room and public changing rooms and toilets. In its singular design, constructed of the concrete and cedar timber the building presents a very harmonious relationship not only to the street but also to the beach landscape. Its distinctive curved roof references its surrounding natural beach features of sand dunes and breaking waves.

Apart from 15% from an insurance payout and a contribution from Christchurch City Council toward public toilets and changing rooms, the \$2.8million pavilion was largely funded from the club's substantial fund-raising efforts. Building commenced in December 2014 and was finished for opening in April of last year.

AWARD

Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre

Citation: *The Christchurch Civic Trust recognises the original character of architectural design and the contribution to the Halswell community.*



Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre

Halswell has had a library and council offices since early last century, located at 381 Halswell Rd. When amalgamation was made in 1968 with Paparua County a new distinctive pagoda shaped building followed, designed by Peter Beaven, to house offices and the Halswell library. However, by 2009 this building was being recognised as having outgrown its useful life and a planned replacement was put in the

2009-19 long term Christchurch City Council plan.

The 2011 earthquakes hastened the decision to rebuild, and the site of the Halswell Aquatic centre, 341 Halswell Rd, was chosen for a new Halswell library and community centre, with the 5000 square metre outdoor area and swimming pool very much included as an essential part of the overall design scheme. Designed by Christchurch City Council architect, Crispin Schurr, and built by the Fletcher Construction company it is distinctive in that its walls lean 15° and 4° backwards. Building in 16 small modules enabled all the steel frame structures to be prefabricated offsite.

Special design features are the extensive use of glass and timber, and rain gardens positioned at intervals on the outer walls.

The 3082 sq/m community complex has spaces for a variety of activities. As well as a library there is a café, learning centre and community meeting rooms.

Construction began in July 2014 and ended in November 2015.

The Maori naming of the centre underwent considerable deliberation by the local Runanga and eventually Te Hāpua was chosen because of the flowing water in the swimming pool and nearby Lake Ellesmere, which is known as Hāpua, has significance to local iwi.



Interior of Te Hāpua: Halswell Library

AWARD

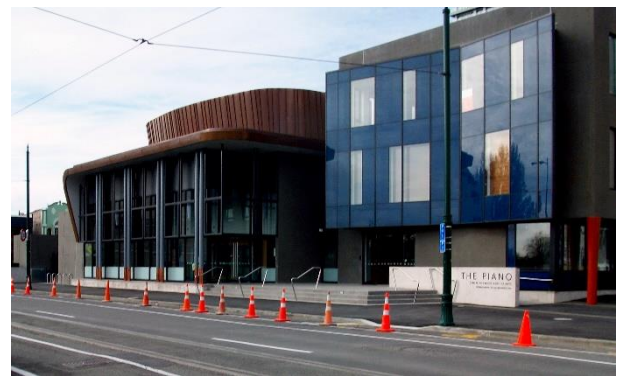
The Piano

Centre for Music and the Arts

Pipī wha-rau-roa:kūi-kūi whitiwhiti ora

156 Armagh St Christchurch

Citation: *The Christchurch Civic Trust recognises the quality of building design and the functionality of a major new arts facility for Christchurch.*



The Piano 156 Armagh St

The Piano: Centre for Music and the Arts was formerly known as The Music Centre of Christchurch. The Music Centre of Christchurch opened in April 1994 using the former Convent and chapel of The Sisters of Our Lady of Missions adjoining the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at 140 Barbadoes St. Tenants included Canterbury Opera, the Christchurch City Choir, Christchurch Civic Music Council, Christchurch School of Music(CSM) and the National Academy of Singing and the Dramatic Arts (NASDA). As a result of the 22 February 2011 earthquakes the Music Centre buildings were rendered unsafe, the lease was terminated, the rights of the land reverted to its owners and the Music Centre of Christchurch lost its home. Using insurance payments, and with much valued assistance the Music Centre Trust Board members; Vivienne Davison, John Dryden Nicki Wood, Steven Marshall, Steve Jones Philip Norman, and Rebecca Stewart decided to proceed with building a new music centre. Alun

Wilkie of Wilkie and Bruce Architects was engaged to draw up concept plans for a new building. In June 2014 the government offered the Music Centre land in the performing arts precinct identified in the central city rebuild. Leigh Construction was contracted to build the new music centre and the trustees renamed it 'The Piano' reflecting the architectural design details inspired by the shape of a grand piano. The facilities are expressed as two principal forms; the concert hall, and associate front of house atrium space, the exterior of which is clad in curved copper elements with a façade of tall columns and a fine louvre screen reflecting the significance of this new facility. The loosely rectangular form of the concert hall mimics many of the classical "shoebox" ratios exemplified in great European concert halls. Frequently there is enormous emphasis on sporting venues and we are fortunate to have this fine cultural facility which is accessible and of value to the whole community.

Category B

A project that has restored, upgraded or protected a site, building or group of buildings of significant heritage character or conservation value

AWARD

'Loudon' Charteris Bay

Citation: *The Christchurch Civic Trust recognises the initiative and enterprise in retaining and restoring a farm homestead and buildings of important heritage character.*



'Loudon' homestead and garden - South View

A unique site plays an essential role in the vision and actualization of the 'Loudon' homestead as does its sense of history and role in rural life. This can be seen in the carefully conserved farm buildings including woodshed, shearing shed, tractor barns and farm worker's accommodation.

The owners Philip King, and Sarah Lovell-Smith, considered several possibilities including demolition, and starting a fresh, but they made the courageous decision to repair and build onto the original homestead. An added complication was the damage to the original buildings caused by the ongoing earthquakes in 2011. In fact the original building was shaken off its foundation and much of the structural work was undone which meant the owners were constantly required to

Presentation of the
Christchurch Civic Trust
AWARDS 2016

Members are invited to attend the
Christchurch Civic Trust annual awards
to be held in

The Seminar Rooms

at

Tait Communications

245 Wooldridge Rd Harewood

Tuesday 11 October

Commencing at 5.30pm

consult engineers and to deal with frustrating insurance processes.

The design involved renewing and extending the original house which may be described as Victorian colonial. The completely new additional wing pays attention to the original homestead's distinctive gabled roofline in terms of proportions and a sense of aesthetic harmonies, while avoiding any sense of fake imitation.

The former servant's quarters and kitchen areas on the south side of the house have been completely transformed into a stunning library social area complete with cupola.

The landscape design by Robert Watson is also respectful of the historic development of the site and it is believed that the impressive grove of oaks on the hillside east of the homestead came from "Cabbage Tree Wilson" who ran one of Christchurch's earliest nurseries.

The owners of 'Loudon homestead' and environment have generously hosted several Sculpture on the Peninsula events.

The practice continued in an adapted warehouse space at 181 Lichfield Street while the Salisbury office site was rebuilt. The experience of working in an open and more collaborative environment was very influential on ideas for the redesign of the practice. The plan for the new offices involved a very faithful reference to the original historic house. The exterior maintained all the verandah areas on both the east and north sides with all the window framing restored and intact. The interior also maintains the original essential spaces with minor adaptations.



Sheppard & Rout offices and studio

AWARD

Sheppard & Rout Architects

Offices and Studio 104 Salisbury St

Citation: *The Christchurch Civic Trust recognises the initiative in retaining and upgrading a building of important heritage character, and the contribution made through design and landscaping to the environs of Salisbury St*

Sheppard and Rout established their Office in a stately late Victorian house and pleasant environment at 104 Salisbury Street in 1982. By the time of the major February 22 earthquake the office had grown to fifteen staff.

The office has been able to conserve these historic references because they made a decision to create a completely new working office space. The staff has now grown to twenty-eight and prefer the open plan working environment to closed office spaces and this is the chosen form for the additional completely innovative working environment. An addition connects to the original "front" business space which is used for reception and meeting room activities and now the working activities occur in the new space.

The redesigned landscaping enhances the attractive working space as the staff greatly enjoy the garden vistas.

AWARD

The Christchurch Club

Citation: *The Christchurch Civic Trust recognises excellence in the restoration of a building of major heritage character, on an important heritage site.*



The Christchurch Club Worcester St

The retention and restoration of the Clubhouse, 154 Worcester St Christchurch, has been a heritage success for the city of Christchurch. The Christchurch Club, 154 Worcester St, is an historic gentlemen's club located in central Christchurch. It was founded by rural landholders in 1856. Benjamin Mountfort, Christchurch's pre-eminent architect, was engaged to design the club's building for the site on Worcester Street. The design is unusual and unique for Mountfort, and is thought to be a compromise between an Italian Palazzo architecture preferred by the club members that can be found in the Reform Clubs in London, and Mountfort's preference for a Gothic architecture. The building was registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand) on the 2nd April 1985 as a Category I historic place. The Christchurch Club building suffered significant damage in the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. The restoration and repair of this heritage building has taken place with sensitivity and an eye for detail that has saved and improved a significant heritage building, one of the few remaining in Christchurch, and the Christchurch Club should be congratulated for this sterling effort.



Restored interior of the Christchurch Club

COMMENDATION

Debbie Rimmer

Landscape Design ~109 Colombo St

Citation: *The Christchurch Civic Trust commends the initiative and commitment in revitalizing a heritage character domestic building and its adaptation for complimentary commercial use.*



Debbie Rimmer Landscape Design 109 Colombo St

Debbie Rimmer is a landscape designer who has decided to run her business from a character villa on Colombo St in Beckenham. Most of the original features of the house, which was built c1910, have been carefully retained during renovation, although a few alterations were

necessary following the 2011 earthquakes. A garage had to be removed and is now a useful “drop off” place for plants. What was a large kitchen now provides more office space with a small well designed kitchen tucked to one side. The house also accommodates other businesses, including a building company, an accountant and a bathroom specialist, who is a quantity surveyor.

109 Colombo St is a good example of how a former domestic dwelling of another era can begin a new life as a peaceful, functional business premise without losing its character.

Category D

Special events and programmes that (i),serve to raise the community’s awareness and appreciation of its heritage assets and or (ii),promote a sustainable environment of the city’s physical attributes

AWARD

Tai Tapu Sculpture Garden

Citation: *The Christchurch Civic Trust recognises the initiative and enterprise in developing a unique natural environment in Canterbury for the display of sculpture and outdoor sculptural events*

In recent years Tai Tapu has been the venue each March for a special annual autumn outdoor sculpture exhibition at the evolving native bush garden of Peter Joyce and Annabel Menzies Joyce. Both have a commitment not only to New Zealand native flora and fauna but also 3 dimensional art, and it is this that has led them to establish a sculpture garden at 199 Cossars Rd Tai Tapu.

The mission of the garden is “to support contemporary New Zealand sculptural practice and enhance native biodiversity in Canterbury”. Planting of native trees and

threatened plants began on a bare 1 hectare paddock in 2010, and since then more than 6000 native trees and shrubs have been planted and a forest garden is now well established. The building of a permanent



Tai Tapu Sculpture Garden

sculpture collection for the garden has also been an objective. Since 2012 a total of ten substantial works of sculpture have been acquired, or commissioned, and installed throughout the garden. Among the artists so far represented are; Graham Bennett, Bing Dawe, Neil Dawson, Ben Foster, Doug Neil and Danny and Llewellyn Summers.



A bronze sculpture- ‘A Landscape with Too Many waiting for St Francis -A Gateway’ Bing Dawe (2015)

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Civic Trust

