

## **STRICTLY EMBARGOED: UNTIL 10:30PM, FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2024**

### **The Pā in Hamilton lauded for its cultural and community credentials**

**Auckland, 14 June 2024:** The Pā at The University of Waikato’s Hillcrest campus in Hamilton is a standout example of a building deeply rooted in local culture and designed to bring the community together. It was named this year’s winner of the Colliers Project Leaders Education Property Award at the 2024 Property Council New Zealand Rider Levett Bucknall Property Industry Awards tonight at the ceremony in Auckland.

The Pā is an iconic mass timber building created to serve as a whare, student hub and home of the Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. This multi-purpose space provides a centre for social interaction, functionality and critically, cultural connection.

At the heart of the building stands the new whareniui, Ko Te Tangata. The waharoa gateway and whareniui exterior are covered in large carvings showcasing the themes of mana motuhake while inside the space is adorned with artworks which draw on the expanse of Te Ao Māori, with celestial, navigational, elemental and atua narratives.

The building was developed through a significant upgrade to the original ‘A Block’ which had been built in the 1960s. By keeping the existing structure but bringing in glulam timber frames – some pieces over 36m long – the team were able to retain the embodied carbon in the structure.

The space has been designed to be multi-functional and can easily transform as needed. Display screens slide discretely behind walls and ceilings when switching between teaching and event modes in the whareniui. The student hub rapidly changes from student hangout space to premium performance or public address mode supported by the latest presentation technology.

“One of a number of stand out entries in this category this year, The Pā impressed the judges not only due to its innovative design but also its ability to bring the entire community together. The flexible space can transform effortlessly to accommodate conferences and graduation ceremonies with up to 800 seated guests or to host performances, cultural events and corporate functions,” said Andrew Evans, chief judge, Property Industry Awards.

The Pā has been set up as an open space for not only the university students, but the wider community, who played an integral role in the design, too. The project team worked closely with The Office of the Kingitanga throughout to create a complex that proudly reflects the mana of Waikato-Tainui, and the Kingitanga, and the mana of the University. Multiple Iwi groups from across the Waikato contributed to the project.

“This is the most significant capital development that the university has ever made and its impact on the people of Hamilton will be felt for a long time to come,” concludes Evans.



### **Colliers Project Leaders Education Property Award**

**Best in category:** The Pā, University of Waikato, Hillcrest Road, Hamilton

- Owner: University of Waikato
- Construction: Hawkins
- Architect: Jasmx, Architectus
- Structural/service/mechanical engineer: Beca
- Building enclosure engineer: Mott MacDonald
- Quantity surveyor: Rider Levett Bucknall
- Project manager: Colliers Project Leaders
- Other consultants: Boffa Miskell

### **Excellence**

- Ahutoetoe School At Milldale, Auckland
- B201 Redevelopment, Auckland
- Tauranga Boys' College - 12 Classroom Block, Tauranga
- Te Kura o Manunui, Tauranga
- Tuhiraki AgResearch Building, Lincoln University, Lincoln
- Windy Ridge School - Te Whare Ako, Auckland

### **Merit:**

- BestStart Hobsonville, Auckland
- Laidlaw College Campus, Auckland
- Marian College, Christchurch
- Northcote Intermediate School (New classroom block), Auckland
- Oteha Valley School, Auckland
- Silverdale School, Auckland
- Waimarie Science Facility, Christchurch

ENDS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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Please do **NOT** contact this person prior to the stated embargo (10:30pm on Friday 14 June 2024).

## PR contact for Property Industry Awards

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**For media use:** images for each of the winning projects are available [here](#). Please credit the photographer where mentioned in the file name.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MEDIA

### ABOUT THE AWARDS

The prestigious Property Council New Zealand Property Industry Awards are presented to outstanding property projects, developments or substantive refurbishments across New Zealand.

The Awards are highly regarded for their focus on efficient use of capital. Projects are awarded for meeting a wide range of criteria to provide an outstanding return and/or delivery of service potential on investment of funds and maximum community benefit for public buildings.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

Each nominee is assessed against the following criteria:

- Economic and financial criteria 30%
- Project vision and innovation (includes degree of difficulty) 15%
- Design and construction 20%
- Owner and user satisfaction 15%
- Sustainability and efficiency of operation 20%

Visit the [Property Industry Awards website](#) for more information or to download the full list of nominees.

## ABOUT PROPERTY COUNCIL NEW ZEALAND

*Property Council is the leading advocate for Aotearoa New Zealand's largest industry – property.*

Property Council New Zealand is the one organisation that collectively champions property, bringing together members from all corners of the property eco system to advocate for reduced red tape that enables development.

Property is New Zealand's largest industry, making up 15% of economic activity. As a sector, we employ 9% of New Zealand's workforce and contribute over \$41.2 billion to GDP.

A not-for-profit organisation, the Property Council connects over 10,000 property professionals, championing the interests of 570 member companies.

Our membership is broad and includes some of the largest commercial and residential property owners and developers in New Zealand. The property industry comes together at our local, national and online events, which offer professional development, exceptional networking and access to industry-leading research.

**Our members shape the cities and spaces where New Zealanders live, work, play and shop.**

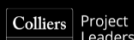
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