

NEWS

Manawatu structures win awards

By Jessica Sutton

jessica.sutton@msl.co.nz

MANAWATU has claimed five awards at the 2009 Western Architecture Awards.

Palmerston North's city square,

courthouse, Central Normal School hall and the Manfeild events and race facilities won awards last night, as part of the annual New Zealand Architect Awards.

New Plymouth architect Jim Elliott, convener of the judging

panel, said the standard had been high, with entries ranging from a kitchen redesign to a vast events centre, all displaying the importance of good architecture.

Having gained regional awards, all buildings are eligible for the

next tier of the awards programme, the New Zealand Architecture Awards, to be announced in April 2010.

■ Horowhenua District Council in Levin, won in the residential architecture-multiple housing,

with judges praising the building as setting a new benchmark for amenities and overall quality.

■ The awards programme is organised and run by the New Zealand Institute of Architects and supported by Resene.



Palmerston North City Square: Designed by CCM Architects Ltd, won in the urban design category and was hailed for revitalising the city centre. Judges said the architects had successfully handled myriad complex issues, including the historic nature of the area and a host of underground services that run under the square.



Palmerston North Courthouse: The Palmerston North Courthouse redevelopment, designed by Opus Architecture, was honoured in public architecture as a successful response to a challenging project and a sensitive treatment of the original building.



Central Normal School Hall: The school hall, designed by Proarch Architects, was also a winner in the public architecture category. Judges said that with good lighting and ample storage, on a limited budget, the building had enhanced the community spirit.



Manfeild Race Circuit Race Control Building And Corporate Suites: Judges said this building "works on every level" as it was simple and practical yet redefined in its detailing. Both of the Manfeild buildings were designed by Campbell and Shadbolt Architects. Manfeild chief executive Heather Verry is "delighted" at the double success.

Photo: WARWICK SMITH