

Wellington Commercial Construction Showcase Wins Gold Award

Aglionby House, owned and built by Armstrong Downes Commercial, has been recognised with a Gold Award at the 2016 New Zealand Commercial Property Awards.

This prestigious award was presented to Directors Simon Taylor and Tony Doile at this month's gala event at the Sky City Convention Centre in Auckland. They were accompanied by Project Manager Graham Hickling, who has worked in the industry for more than 40 years. Aglionby House showcases the craftsmanship, skills, products and expertise of the Hutt Valley based company, local subcontractors and their suppliers.

Hosted by the Registered Master Builders Association, this distinguished awards programme sets the benchmark for commercial construction across New Zealand. Each project is judged on extensive criteria covering design, contract management, construction, environment, and delivery factors. With 16 finalists in the Commercial and Civic Project Category this year, only three projects met their Gold Standard of Excellence.

Having worked together on numerous projects over the years, Architects Designgroup Stapleton Elliot says, "Armstrong Downes Commercial's brief was to create a facility to support their business and allow for future growth. The design needed to express honest materials and a playful and engaging interior. It needed to reflect the company's core values of being a reputable and innovative construction company."

The result is an impressive building, both stylish and modern, appropriately industrial with dynamic angles throughout. It combines a wide range of materials including exposed structural steel, decorative precast panels, reverse run metal cladding and natural timbers. The interior is imbued with natural light due to the large double glazed windows. It includes highly polished concrete floors, and multi-coloured design accents. The careful blend of materials demonstrates the creative use of both aesthetic and functional aspects. Strong environmental features such as rainwater recovery, solar power, low energy LED lighting and recycled materials all play a part in setting a new standard in smaller commercial property for the region.

Tony Doile, Director Armstrong Downes Commercial says, "To say we are delighted with this award is an understatement. We chose to make a strategic investment in our future and build something very special for our team. We always enjoy showcasing what we do best and are passionate about. Being recognised in this way is proof of our commitment to deliver the best commercial construction projects throughout the Wellington region."

This Gold Award follows hot on the heels of two other awards. Just the week before Aglionby House and the new Onslow Medical Centre were recognised with New Zealand Institute of Architecture Awards for Wellington. The Onslow Medical Centre was designed by Tennant+Brown Architects and completed by Armstrong Downes Commercial earlier this year.

Armstrong Downes Commercial are currently working on several high profile projects across the region from Kent Flats in central Wellington, Arise Church on SH2 at Petone and the redevelopment of the Lower Hutt Post Office.

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Established in 1992 Armstrong Downes Commercial is a very successful owner-led Wellington based commercial construction company. Owned by well-known Lower Hutt construction professionals, Tony Doile and Simon Taylor, the company has been responsible for many of the Wellington region's high profile commercial construction projects, including the recently completed Kent Flats (Wellington), Book House (Wellington), all three Mitre 10 Megas (Petone, Upper Hutt and Porirua), and The Harvey Norman Centre (Lower Hutt). In last year's Commercial Project Awards Armstrong Downes Commercial received a National Gold Award and Category win for "The Ambassador's Residence" in the Restoration category. In 2014 the company picked up three national awards for Churton Park Retail Village, Silverstream New World and Kapiti Coast District Council Building.