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Wellington master craftsmen achieve national Gold standard

Wellington commercial construction company Armstrong Downes Commercial has been recognised with a Gold Award and a National Category Award at the recent New Zealand Commercial Project Awards 2015.

The awards were presented to Armstrong Downes Commercial at a ceremony at the Auckland Museum in May, for its sympathetic restoration of the “Ambassador’s Residence”, a 1931 neo-Tudor style building in Lower Hutt.

This prestigious awards programme sets the benchmark for commercial construction in New Zealand and is the commercial equivalent of the House of the Year. Projects are judged on extensive criteria covering all design, contract management, construction and delivery. The Gold Awards recognise excellence in construction and are earned by achieving more than 90% of the points available. The National Category Award is presented to the entrant with the highest points scored in each category; the Armstrong Downes Commercial award is for commercial projects under \$2 million. These awards follow on from the trio of silver awards won by the company at the same event last year.

Tony Doile, Principal and Managing Director of Armstrong Downes Commercial says, “Creating a seamless blend of the old and the new was an exciting opportunity for Armstrong Downes Commercial. Our team thrived on the challenge of restoring the building to its former glory and we were incredibly proud of the finished project. We’re delighted to receive this recognition for a project which is very dear to us.”

Co-Principal and Managing Director, Simon Taylor agrees saying, “This is a tremendous win for Armstrong Downes Commercial. We are very proud of the outstanding effort and workmanship of the team who worked on the project; this is truly something to be proud of.”

Armstrong Downes Commercial took an aged gentlemen of a home, the “Ambassador’s Residence”, which had received no significant maintenance work for 50 years and artfully restored the 20-room, 320m² two story stucco building to its former stately grandeur. Exceptional security and functionality needs of the occupants were met by significant structural and seismic strengthening work and major interior and exterior refurbishment. The scope of work was extensive, with not one part of the building untouched.

Inside, the Residence was treated to a comprehensive renovation. The net effect of this project was that the Residence regained its historic grandeur whilst delivering a truly functional and luxurious full suite of aesthetically sensitive modern services.

Dave Mudge, President of Wellington Registered Master Builders said, “With outstanding workmanship Armstrong Downes Commercial has restored this building to more than its original classical splendour with the latest in technology, services and finishes, completed by a dedicated team of master craftsmen.”

For more information on the project visit <http://armstrongdownes.co.nz/project/ambassadors-residence>

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About Armstrong Downes Commercial

Established in 1992 Armstrong Downes Commercial is a very successful commercial construction company. Owned by well-known Lower Hutt construction professionals, Tony Doile and Simon Taylor, the company has been experiencing strong growth in recent years.

Armstrong Downes Commercial has been responsible for many of the Wellington region's highest profile commercial construction projects, including all three Mitre 10 Megas (Petone, Upper Hutt and Porirua), the Harvey Norman Centre, the Hutt Park Indoor Sports Centre, the Churton Park Retail Village, Pak N Save Lower Hutt, the Brendan Foot Super Site, the Kapiti Coast District Council offices in Paraparaumu, both Harbour City Funeral Homes (Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt) and hundreds of projects across the Wellington region ranging in value from \$200,000 to \$30 million.

Armstrong Downes Commercial set new standards for commercial offices in the Hutt Valley earlier this year, with the construction of Aglionby House, its new national headquarters. The building meets 100% earthquake standards, with a strong environmental emphasis and showcases many design and architectural features. The company is strongly supportive of the Wellington community and building industry, with 90% of the materials coming from local companies.

Over the years Armstrong Downes Commercial has won many local, regional and national awards for excellence in its profession.