



## University "green" building wins architecture award

29 October 2013

Waikato University's Student Centre has been recognised in the 2013 Waikato/Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards announced last Friday at Claudelands Events Centre, Hamilton.

The Student Centre was among 14 other buildings, ranging from small-scale projects to large commercial constructions.

### Designers

Designers of the Student Centre, Warren and Mahoney Architects and AECOM, received the architecture award in the category of Education and Sustainability.

"The traditional notion of the library as a book repository has been superseded as a place of learning and socialising," the awards jury said.

### Transformation

The Student Centre opened in late 2011 after a \$30 million transformation that turned the old library into a one-stop shop for students. Its sustainable design, which includes recycled materials, energy-generating lifts, and solar heating, have already earned the building a 5 Green Star rating from the New Zealand Green Building Council.

### Intense judging

Hamilton architect Glen McHardie, convenor of the awards jury, said the process of judging was intense.

"Over three days, we visited 30 projects and had great discussions about them all."

Dubbed the "heart of the campus" the Student Centre is a multi-functional facility that provides students with a student-centred learning environment, combining traditional library resources with hi-tech IT facilities. It was designed as a central hub for student support services, as well as a place for study and socialising.



**Award-winning building:** Waikato University's Student Centre was recognised at the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Architecture Awards last Friday.

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