

Aquatic Centre scoops Architecture awards

The Selwyn Aquatic Centre has won two awards at the 2013 Canterbury Architecture Awards.

The Aquatic Centre won a Public Architecture and a Sustainable Architecture award.

Judges praised the centre's clear and direct design concept, the building's sense of lightness, the extensive use of natural light along the full length of the façade and the heat recovery and ventilation systems, which reduce power use at the centre.

Alex Head, of Warren and Mahoney designed the Aquatic Centre and says the building design was conceived to respond to its natural greenfield setting and to reflect the local environment of Selwyn through the play of natural light, views and local materials.

Selwyn Aquatic Facilities Manager Kathy Moore says that people who visit the centre have been impressed with it. "We have received many compliments from customers who like the sense of light and space at the facility."

The centre includes an air to air heat recovery system which recovers heat off exhaust air to heat fresh air. This provides the centre with better air quality and makes it more energy efficient. A floating screed floor is also used in the centre. This reduces energy costs by minimising the amount of heat lost into the ground.

The 2,800 square metre facility features an eight-lane 25 metre pool, a hydrotherapy pool with spa area, a learn-to-swim pool and a leisure pool with a lazy river.

The annual Canterbury Architecture Awards celebrate the best of Canterbury architecture. The convenor of the Awards jury, Christchurch architect Perry Royal, said the number of projects entered into the Awards was significantly higher than in the past three years.

The pool was constructed by Naylor Love Construction and the development of the complex project managed by Davis Langdon.

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