

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, 1 July 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

One day dedicated to timber.

17 Category Award Winners. 11 Highly Commended.

52 projects. 132 entries. 700+ People's Choice votes.

Last Friday, timber professionals from across the country gathered in Auckland for a full day dedicated to learning, collaboration and celebrating excellence in New Zealand timber design and construction. Despite severe weather grounding flights around the country, architects, engineers, contractors, suppliers, manufacturers and clients were determined to be there—with some even driving from Wellington after their flights were cancelled.

The day began with **Timber Delivered**, a seminar that brought together the teams behind five leading mass timber projects to share the lessons that don't often make it into case studies.

Rather than focusing solely on technical details, presenters spoke candidly about the decisions, collaboration and problem-solving that underpin the successful delivery of timber buildings, but one important message stood out: the best innovation isn't kept within project teams—it is shared, refined and built upon.

The day concluded with the **51st Timber Design Awards Gala Dinner**, celebrating the people and projects demonstrating the very best of New Zealand's timber design and construction industry.

The evening recognised 17 Category Award Winners and 11 Highly Commended projects from a field of 132 entries spanning 52 projects. **All winners can be viewed on the [Timber Unlimited website](#).**

The night's highest honour, the **Resene Supreme Award**, was presented to **Air New Zealand's Hangar 4**, entered by **Studio Pacific Architecture**.

The judging panel described the project as *"a benchmark achievement, demonstrating both innovation and exceptional engineering elegance in timber design and construction."*

Combining laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and cross-laminated timber (CLT), the project demonstrates timber's environmental benefits, seismic resilience, corrosion resistance and structural efficiency, delivering a lighter solution for a building type traditionally dominated by steel.

The **Simpson Strong-Tie People's Choice Award** was awarded to **211 High Street**, submitted by **Ignite Architects**. More than 700 people cast their vote over the 48-hour voting period, highlighting the strong interest and enthusiasm for timber projects across the wider industry and community.

The breadth and quality of this year's entries reflected the continued growth and maturity of New Zealand's timber sector, with projects showcasing outstanding innovation across residential, commercial, education, community and civic buildings.

“What stood out wasn’t just the quality of the winning projects, but the willingness of our industry to share knowledge so openly throughout the day. That’s how we continue to grow confidence in timber and deliver even better outcomes for clients and communities,” says Daniel Scheibmair, Chair, Timber Unlimited.

Another highlight of the evening was the native seedling table centrepieces, generously sponsored by [PEFC New Zealand](#), which attendees were invited to take home at the end of the night. Every seedling found a new home before the evening was over.

Timber Unlimited extends its sincere thanks to the judges—**Tom Webster, Katie Symons, Huia Reriti and David Carradine**—for their expertise and dedication, and to every individual and organisation that submitted a project.

The organisation also acknowledges the generous support of its sponsors, whose commitment makes both the awards and the wider promotion of timber design possible.

A huge thanks to **Resene, Simpson Strong-Tie, Red Stag, XLAM, Techlam, Prolam, Rothoblaas, Build Anatomy, Nelson Pine, Abodo, Spec Toolbox, Eurotec, Te Kahui Whaihanga NZIA and Timber Design Society**, for their continued investment in the industry.

From the ideas shared during the Timber Delivered seminar to the projects recognised at the Timber Design Awards, the day reflected an industry committed to collaboration, knowledge sharing and innovation.

2026 Timber Design Awards Results

The awards recognise excellence across architecture, engineering, manufacturing and construction, celebrating the people and projects advancing the use of timber throughout New Zealand.

	Highly Commended	Category Winner
Timber Design Society Student Design Award	FALE I NEI, FALE I NĀ – THE VĀ BETWEEN US Ties van Roij, University of Auckland	Grainform James Corles, University of Auckland
Interior Design Award	NZR.Co Context	Partridge Jewellers, Queenstown Hannah Davies Limited
Eurotec Exterior Structure & Landscaping Design Award	SH 26 Onetai Stream Bridge Replacement PTL Structural & Fire	Timber Monogamy Gregory Mann, Andrew Barrie Lab & Batchelar McDougall Consultants
Spec Toolbox Innovative Timber Manufacturing & Technology Award	Whare Mimirū: a seismically resilient timber structure utilising Māori post-tensioning Anthony Hōete, University of Auckland	Conradi Holzhaus PTL Structural & Fire
Build Anatomy International Project Award	–	**Joint Winners** West Gate Tunnel Project – Timber Nets Red Stag Timberlab Majuro ECC Sports Stadium, Marshall Islands PTL Structural & Fire
Abodo Sustainable Development Award	Te Hurihanga ō Rangatahi / Youth Hub Christchurch Lewis Bradford Consulting Engineers, Field Studio of Architecture + Urbanism and Naylor Love Canterbury	AUT Tukutuku Jasmax
Te Kahui Whaihanga NZIA Residential Design Award for Single Family Dwelling	Lavericks Bay Retreat Studio Now	Living House RTA Studio

XLAM Residential Design Award for Multi-Unit Residential Building (up to 3 levels)	-	Summerset Milldale Summerset Group Holdings Ltd
Nelson Pine Commercial & Industrial Building Design Award	90 Devonport Road LT McGuinness	**Joint Winners** Air New Zealand – Hangar 4 Studio Pacific Architecture Kai Tahi, Porirua Dunning Thornton
Techlam Public & Community Building Award	Te Whare Whakare / Ashburton Library and Civic Centre Athfield Architects Limited	Te Whare Hononga Tennent Brown Architects
Red Stag Mid-Rise Building Design Award (over 3 levels)	AUT Tukutuku Jasmax	90 Devonport Road LT McGuinness
Prolam Hybrid Building Award	BNZ Theatre Foster Construction Group	University of Auckland B201 Jasmax
Rothoblaas Innovative Timber Engineering Award	Air New Zealand – Hangar 4 Studio Pacific Architecture	Dallington Bridge Ruamoko Solutions
Simpson Strong-Tie People's Choice Award	-	211 High Street Ignite Architects
Resene Supreme Award	-	Air New Zealand – Hangar 4 Studio Pacific Architecture