

Projects / Architecture

We designed the first new primary school in the southern South Island for 30 years.

Frankton / Otago



The Project

This award-winning new primary school was officially opened in August 2010 although the first classrooms were opened in February 2010.

The school's Establishment Board had a strong vision for the teaching and values of the school. Our ambition was to create a school that embraced those core values – one that provides a welcoming, caring and inclusive environment serving the needs of the learning community.

An adaptable environment was required that would meet current and future pedagogical needs of the anticipated 460 school roll. With a stunning setting between Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables, Babbage wanted an architectural form that responded to and was fully integrated with the landscape.

The site presented a number of challenges for us. It was approximately half the size of a typical primary school site with a 20 metre fall across the site. It is exposed to the prevailing winds off the Frankton Arm and with only 100 metres road frontage there is limited area for drop-off and pickup.

The Design

As a response to site conditions buildings have been arranged as a wind break around the play areas to enable comfortable year round use. Natural contours of the site have been used to create an outside auditorium/performance space embraced by the buildings, which appear to be emerging from the surrounding landscape. The natural tones of the materials used enhance the notion that the buildings are part of the landscape.

Response to the design has been very positive both locally and nationally. We are proud to have won the NZIA National Award in Public Architecture, an NZIA Southern Architecture Award in Public Architecture, Southern Region Registered Master Builders Commercial Building of the Year 2011 and a merit award at the Property Council New Zealand Rider Levett Bucknall Property Industry Awards.

This project was also one of four shortlisted for the 2012 New Zealand Architecture Medal, the highest award in New Zealand for architecture.

Key details

Project

Project: Remarkables Primary School

Client: Ministry of Education, Naylor Love Construction

Location: Frankton, Otago

Cost: \$17,300,000

Completion: August 2010

Project team

Architects: Frank Cleary, Caroline Sui

Structural: Victor Lam, Ivy Lo

Building Services: Craig Cooper

Disciplines

Architecture

Building Services Engineering

Structural Engineering