About Rafe Maclean Architects

Rafe Maclean Architects is a Wanaka based architectural practice dedicated to producing elegantly crafted building solutions through innovative use of interesting materials.

Rafe Maclean (BArch (hons), BBSc) graduated from Victoria University of Wellington in 1996 with first class honours in Architecture. Following graduation, Rafe worked with John Daish Architects, Herriot & Melhuish Architecture and New Work Studio before establishing Rafe Maclean Architects in February 2005.

Rafe Maclean is a Registered Architect and architect member of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, and is a Certified Passive House Designer, certified by Passivhaus Institut, Darmstadt, Germany.

Current staff include Amanda Snow, Libby Morgan, Cecile Bernicot & Sarah Wild.

The work and ideas the practice is producing are playful and visually legible, with detailing that is sensual, sustainable and well crafted. Rafe Maclean Architects is focused on residential and small commercial projects. Our office is intentionally small enabling us to produce very high quality project outcomes, with a high level of interaction with the design team and clients. This allows us to perform a select number of projects per year, dependent on project size.

We look forward to discussing your project with you.

Awards

Awards for Completed Work

2019 NZIA New Zealand Architecture Award, Southern Architecture Award; for Te Kea Hut, Wanaka. Category: Small Project Award. Also, recipient to a Resene Colour Award.

2019 NZIA New Zealand Architecture Award, Southern Architecture Award; for Kowhai House (Certified Passive House), Dunedin. Category: Housing. Also, recipient to a Resene Colour Award.

2019 South Pacific Passive House: Architectural Merits Award; for Kowhai House

2017 NZIA New Zealand Architecture Award, Southern Architecture Award; for Gardner House, Wanaka. Category: Housing

2017 South Pacific Passive House: Architectural Merits Award; for George House

2016 NZIA New Zealand Architecture Award, Southern Architecture Award; for George House (Certified Passive House), Wanaka. Category: Housing

2013 NZIA New Zealand Architecture Award, Southern Architecture Award; for Acland House, Wanaka. Category: Sustainable Architecture

NZIA New Zealand Architecture Award, Southern Architecture Award; for Acland House, Wanaka. Category: Housing

New Zealand Commercial Projects Award, Gold Award Winner; for Rippon Hall, Lake Wanaka, Category: Tourism and Leisure

New Zealand Commercial Projects Award, National Category Winner, for Rippon Hall, Lake Wanaka, Category: Tourism and Leisure

2012 NZ Wood Resene Timber Awards – Finalist Commercial & Innovation categories – for Rippon Hall, Wanaka_Rafe Maclean Architects

2011 NZIA Southern Architecture Award for Wilson House, Wanaka_Rafe Maclean Architects

2010 NZIA Southern Architecture Award for Waite House, Wanaka_Rafe Maclean Architects

2006 NZIA New Zealand Award for Ian Louise House, Wellington_Rafe Maclean Architects

Supreme Award Winner, Origin Timber Awards 2006, Commercial/Public Building – Architectural Excellence, DAC Law Building, Hawkes Bay_collaboration with Kebbell Daish Wellington First Place, Wellington Architectural Centre 20 under 40 design competition

2005 NZIA Local Architecture Award for Ian Louise House, Wellington_Rafe Maclean Architects

2004 NZIA Local Architecture Award for Chow Canopy, Wellington_Herriot & Melhuish Architecture
2002 NZIA Local Architecture Award for Northland Houses, Wellington_Herriot & Melhuish Architecture
NZIA Local Architecture Award, NZIA New Zealand Award, Lower Shotover Road House, Queenstown_New Work Studio

2001 NZIA Local Architecture Award for Tyson House, Wellington_New Work Studio

1998 Finalist NZIA Architectural Awards, Brown House, Waikanae_John Daish Architects

1997 Carter Holt Harvey National Architect Graduate Award

1995 National Firth Masonry Villa Design Competition – Creative Award

Publications of Completed Work

Home (NZ) Hello Sunshine, article on Kowhai House, June/July issue, 2019


Home (NZ) article on Te Kea hut, December/January issue, 2018/2019

Williams, Melinda, Eco Home; Smart Ideas for Sustainable NZ Homes, 2018 (George House & Gardner House)

Slope & Style, Issue 01_USA & NZ, studio overview and interview

Passive House + (Ireland), Issue 18 2017_International Selection (George House), pp28-29

Sanctuary magazine_Modern Green Homes (Australia), Issue 37 Summer 2016/17_Passive Pioneer (George House), pp24-29

Metropolis Magazine (New York), July 2016, Featured in Point-of-view ‘6 Passive Houses from around the World’


Houses NZ, issue 21, 2011_Mt Gold House

Gourmet Traveller, February 201, pp70-75_Rippon Hall

Timberdesign Australasia_2007_DAC project

Home & Entertaining, OCT/NOV 2005_Ian Louise House

Houses NZ, issue 01 (on cover), 2006_Ian Louise House

Architecture NZ_2002_Lower Shotover House