

## Cutting edge design wins NMIT \$1 million



A sketch of the NMIT Arts and Media Block.

**N**elson Marlborough Institute of Technology's (NMIT) planned new Arts and Media Block has won accolades and up to a million dollars in support funding for being a landmark building.

The building, which will incorporate revolutionary wooden construction, has been awarded the additional funding towards design and construction costs by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, after meeting all the criteria for sustainable wooden building design.

Nelson architects Irving Smith Jack have also won a national competition run by NMIT in conjunction with MAF for the design of the commercial building using wood as the key structural component instead of concrete and steel.

MAF's Wood Building Demonstration Project has been set up to encourage the use of wood for multi-storey commercial buildings.

It awards part-funding towards design and construction

to government or government-funded organisations where a commissioned building design meets the criteria of being a commercial building, is constructed with wood, is multi-storey, is innovative in its design and has features that could be easily translated into other buildings.

MAF wants to support increased use of wood for commercial building because it's sustainable, renewable, available locally and takes less energy to manufacture than many other building materials.

The NMIT Arts and Media building design meets all those criteria. The building, while meeting the needs for specialist and general learning space, will also be used as a demonstration model to promote the use of wood in commercial construction.

The engineering features of the building design are leading edge and, coupled with the potential to use locally produced materials and a design that shows off all the internal structural components, are unique in wooden building design.

Structural engineer Carl Devereux of Connell Wagner says the design is based on the latest research from the University of Canterbury and, when complete, will be a world first in timber design.

The earthquake design combines laminated timber shear walls with a unique energy-dissipating system.

Architect Andrew Irving, of Irving Smith Jack Architects, says their team was thrilled to win such a prestigious national award against strong competition.

"Coming up with this innovative concept using locally produced timber components has been very exciting," Mr Irving says.

"Hopefully it will be the first of a new generation of creative, sustainable, wooden structured, multi-storied buildings."

• For more info: **Ph Irving Smith Jack, 03 548 1372**



On the web: [www.isjarchitects.co.nz](http://www.isjarchitects.co.nz)

## Research demonstrates importance of cement and concrete to economy

**R**esearch into the importance of the cement and concrete industry to New Zealand's economy has found it contributes nearly \$3 billion towards the country's GDP.

A New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) report shows that for the year ending March 2006, the value of the industry's output was \$7.4 billion.

This activity supported 24,000 jobs and created a value add of \$2.8 billion — about 2% of New Zealand's GDP.

The report was commissioned by the Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ). Chief executive Patrick McGuire says the research shows just how significant the cement and concrete industry

is to the nation's economy.

"A primary aim for us is to ensure that cement and concrete are truly sustainable — environmentally, socially and economically.

"The NZIER research proves the industry is more than meeting the economic part of this objective," Mr McGuire says.

The report was released at the first birthday of Concrete<sup>3</sup> — an initiative launched by CCANZ to raise awareness about cement and concrete's contribution to sustainable development.

Construction representatives gathered in central Wellington for the recent event, which also marked the

launch of *Concrete for a Sustainable World*, a short film about concrete's contribution to the built environment in New Zealand.

The event also reflected on the inaugural Concrete<sup>3</sup> sustainability award, launched recently to recognise and celebrate concrete's contribution to sustainable development.

The award was won by Holcim (New Zealand) Ltd and Mainzeal Property and Construction Ltd for Project Century, an Auckland brewery under construction which uses recycled glass as aggregate in the concrete parts of the structure.



• For more info: **Ph CCANZ, 0800 242 243**

On the web: [www.sustainableconcrete.org.nz](http://www.sustainableconcrete.org.nz)