

Entries are now open for Landscaping New Zealand's biennial *Landscapes of Distinction Awards 2012*. Here Lyndell Shannon looks at the winners from last year's Awards and what the judges had to say . . .

# Gardens of Excellence

The Landscaping New Zealand  
Horizon International Landscapes of Distinction Awards 2010

**N**EW Zealand's professional landscaping body, Landscaping New Zealand, holds Awards every two years to acknowledge and showcase excellence in the landscaping industry, from student design to the highest levels of landscape design, construction, horticulture and maintenance.

The Awards are open to accredited and affiliate members of the Association.

Entries are first assessed by a panel of three judges from portfolios submitted by entrants. The portfolios show photos, plans and other documentation pertinent to the categories entered.

The judges then visit the projects and assess the work on the ground, awarding points against established criteria. It is at this stage that they award Gold, Silver or Bronze to projects. A project entered in more than one category may receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze in each category.

The judging panel is selected to reflect expertise across the industry. The judges of the 2010 Awards were Renee Davis, head of department at the Unitec School of Landscape Architecture, landscape architect Richard Hart, and Grant Eyre, the nursery manager at Growing Spectrum. The judges said they were impressed by the quality and range of the projects entered.



**John Roper of the sponsors Horizon International, presents the top Award, Landscape of the Year, to Design & Garden Landscapes Ltd's builder Paul Gilles, and principals Ella and Wayne Butson**

The Horizon International Landscape of the Year Award was won by Dunedin company Design and Garden Landscapes Ltd for their Kunac garden. This southern lifestyle block, according to the judges,

"is uplifted by the fine finishes and exceptional workmanship apparent in the chosen materials and garden construction ... all combined in such a way that one material seems to morph into the next. ... A sensitive hand has used a mixed planting palette, it's all beautifully installed, and the massed tussock creates a fitting mountain vibe."

The Kunac garden also won Best Residential Project Award, Best Use of Native Plants Award and Best Horticulture for a Large Project Award.

Design and Garden Landscapes Ltd also won Best Edible Garden Award for another project, the Barker Garden with its clever manipulation of site, shape and colour to create a contemporary kitchen garden. Their Helm Garden entry won both Best Construction for a

*continued overleaf*

**Right: Landscape of the Year, Best Residential Project Award, Best Use of Native Plants Award, Best Horticulture for a Large Project Award, three Gold Awards to – Design & Garden Landscapes Ltd.**

**The judges said: this southern lifestyle block "is uplifted by the fine finishes and exceptional workmanship apparent in the chosen materials and garden construction... all combined in such a way that one material seems to morph into the next..."**

**Below left: Bradley Garden – by Natural Habitats. Three gold Awards in Construction, Horticulture and Management for a Large Project. "This design has achieved a spectacular outdoor space which creates a sense of drama." Below right: Russell Garden – by Natural Habitats. Best Design for a Large Project Award, two Gold Awards, one Silver Award. "One of the standout gardens with lots of special elements. This was a major garden makeover in which large existing trees were retained and new planting added. Retaining walls, paved zones near the house and dramatic cedar structures combine to create stylish functional spaces."**





*“ . . . areas of bold planting anchor the scheme. A sensitive hand has used a mixed planting palette, it’s all beautifully installed, and the massed tussock creates a fitting mountain vibe.”*



**Left: Roberts-Shannon Courtyard – by Gardens Realised.**

**Best Design for a Small Project Award, one Gold award. “A truly beautiful and stunning example of what can be achieved in a small garden setting. The subtle use of Japanese-style elements has created a calm contemplative space. Stone, gravel and timber provide a framework for native and exotic plants and enhance the garden’s style and character.”**



**Above: The Parc – by Natural Habitats. Best Sustainable Landscape Practice Award, one Silver Award, one Bronze Award. ‘A rooftop park design that provides a functional oasis for city apartment-dwellers... After ten years it retains integrity and drama, with the strong planting and path network achieving the goals of cohesion and connectivity.’**



**Left: Onewa Interchange - by HEB Construction Ltd. Silver Award in Horticulture for a Large Project. One of the largest projects, and “an incredibly hostile environment so the attention to appropriate planting, site preparation, follow-up mulching etc has to be carried out perfectly... The quality of the plants put into this site is great.”**



**Left: Barker Garden – by Design & Garden Landscapes Ltd.**

**Best Edible garden Award, two Silver Awards. “This project illustrates how clever manipulation of site can achieve a multitude of uses and a wonderfully functional kitchen garden.”**



## LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Small Project and Best Horticulture for a Small Project.

The range of projects entered in the awards is illustrated by the Onewa Interchange project in Auckland, entered in the Large Project - Horticulture category by HEB Construction Ltd.

About this the judges noted "it is a tough challenge to get everything right in such a hostile environment. The quality of the plants put into this site is great."

At the other end of the scale, the Roberts-Shannon Courtyard en-

tered by Gardens Realised, won Gold and the Best Design for a Small Project Award.

Described as a "truly beautiful and stunning example of what can be achieved in a small garden setting," the subtle use of Japanese-style elements created a calm contemplative space.

The Best Design for a Large Project Award was won by Natural Habitats for "a major garden makeover in which large existing trees were retained and new planting added. Retaining walls, paved

**Armadale Road Water Feature – by Second Nature.**

**Best Special Feature Award, two Gold Awards.**

*"This garden's incredible floating steps were enough to win it this award. Clever detailing and construction, all to the highest standard, showcases the importance of a clean, crisp execution. It's a difficult design to implement, but the result...is a wonderfully poetic and compelling water feature."*

**Dyslexia Discovery Garden – by Morgan & Pollard.**

**Best Commercial Project Award, three Gold Awards.**

*"One of the best. This woodland-style courtyard ... with a cedar-shuttered guest house and a striking bronze sculpture as a focal point, this garden combines many varied materials to make a unified whole."*



**Bassett Road Garden – by Second Nature. Best Garden Management Award, Best Construction for a Large Project Award, three Gold Awards.** *"This contemporary garden showcases crafted elements in a modernist setting. Complex concrete work includes raised concrete lawns linked by floating steps and voids filled with Zephyranthes, the rain lily. This expert use of concrete shows a great understanding of the material. Timber decks are also immaculate...Complex in design, this garden is enhanced by simple bold plantings."*

zones near the house and dramatic cedar structures combine to create stylish functional spaces."

Natural Habitats entered a number of projects and did well, winning Best Sustainable Landscape Practice Award for The Parc, an inner-city rooftop garden surrounded by apartments.

The judges remarked that "after ten years it retains integrity and drama." Another of their gardens, the Bradley Garden earned three Gold Awards.

Second Nature won three Gold Awards, Best Garden Management Award and Best Construction for a Large Project Award for the Bassett Road Garden, a contemporary garden showcasing expert use of concrete, immaculate timber decks and flawlessly maintained simple bold planting.

Second Nature also garnered the Best Special Feature Award for their Armadale Road water feature with its spectacular floating steps.

A survivor from the earthquakes

Morgan and Pollard's garden for Dyslexia Discovery in Christchurch won three Golds and Best Commercial Project Award.

This woodland-style courtyard with its striking bronze sculpture is on the same premises as the garden that won Morgan and Pollard Landscape of the Year in 2008.

Adam Pollard reports that the garden has survived the Christchurch earthquakes with only one broken light, although the building has been significantly damaged. Testament indeed to high-quality landscaping.

