

Project: Ngati Hine Child Care Centre

Building Type: Child Care Centre

Long-listed for the prestigious 2010 World Architecture News Awards Education Sector, Ngati Hine Child Care Centre (Kawakawa, Northland) takes the concept of 'naturally sustainable' to a whole new level.

The concept for the building is based on the Maori tradition that all life is born from the womb of Papatuanuku (earth mother). The design is conceived by shaping the land into a womb-like form, with the building forming just like a baby within; the building literally grows out of the land.

The building has achieved a 6 Green Star rating.

Objective:

The building was designed by Phil Smith who's brief was to design a unique state of the art childcare facility, embodying the clients' culture and customs in a modern way, and as 'green' as it possibly could be.

He needed to strike the balance between providing clear and efficient light throughout the day whilst maintaining a low environmental impact by mitigating against heat gain and heat loss.

Solution:

Keeping with the flow of natural and sustainable resources, the Solatube Daylighting System was chosen to light the interior of the building.

Products used:

- 8 x Solatube 750DS Open Ceiling Daylighting Systems were installed throughout the building to light classrooms.
- 2 x Solatube 290DS Daylighting Systems installed into the reception and office, incorporated into a hanging light feature.
- 1 x VS3004 HomeTech Ventilation unit installed into changing and sleeping areas.

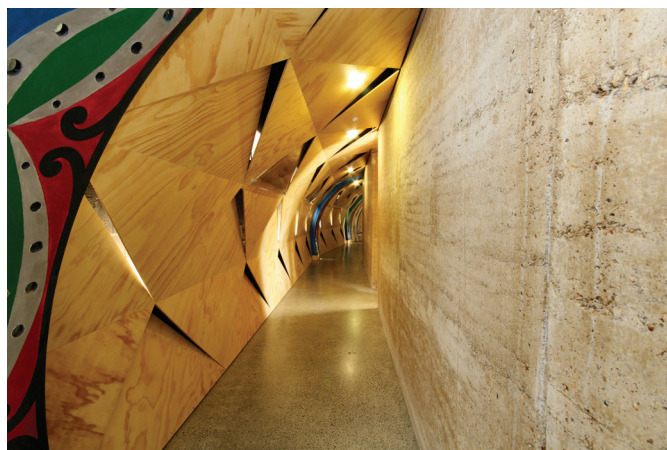
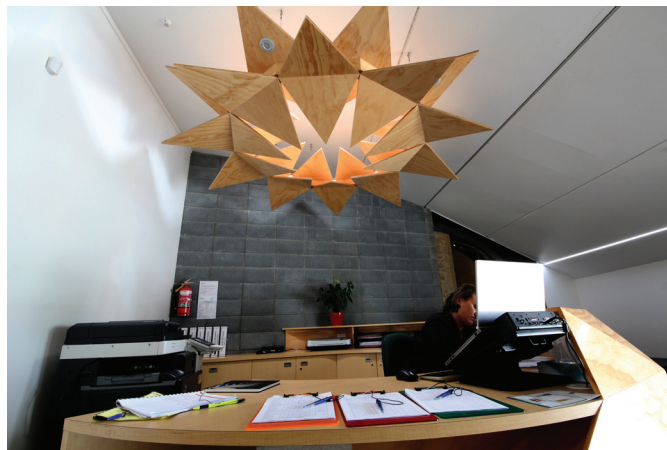
Testimonial

Phil Smith specialises in passive environmental architecture. As an assessor for the Green Building Council, he understands the intricacies of balancing natural daylighting with heat loss, which is why he chose the Solatube 750DS Daylighting System to boost the daylight levels at the rear of the classrooms.

"We needed a product that maximised natural lighting but minimised heat losses and glazed rooflights just did not cut it. The Solatube Daylighting Systems have a great U-value but better still they actually boost the daylight levels from the aperture - visitors really think there is a light bulb inside it!"

Phil Smith

Architect (UK), RIBA, NZ GSAP



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