

The Client's Perspective

Suzie Peacock is the Head of the School of Arts and Media at NMIT. She is greatly looking forward to using the new facilities from early in 2011, and believes that buildings can have “quite an influence on the people who inhabit them”. She believes the structure will be much more than just a passive container for the activities that take place within it - it will itself be a teacher and an active enabler of learning. Students will take inspiration from this role model of great design, best practice, teamwork and expertise. “We are enormously proud of this building,” she says.



Who's involved and How

The Architects (Irving Smith Jack). ISJ has an ongoing interest in the use of locally source structural timber solutions integral with design, in place of more traditional steel or concrete. They would like to address fundamental issues of sustainability within the building industry. This commitment culminated in winning the 2007 NZ supreme award for residential timber design.

The Engineers (Aurecon). As one of the largest engineering design teams in New Zealand, Aurecon call upon a wealth of national and international experience. They are world leaders in the two key areas of specialist timber and seismic design, and have recently won the NZ Timber Design Award and the British Institution of Engineers top award.

The Project Managers (Arrow International). Arrow provides a single point of responsibility for the project delivery, integrating feasibility, design and construction. They believe that environmental sustainability is not a fad, it is a reality for all of New Zealand.

The Sponsors (BNZ). As the principal sponsor, BNZ supports not only the significant increase in training abilities at NMIT but also the wider benefits that will accrue to the Nelson region, affirming its position as the centre of artistic activity and as a cultural destination.



The Academics (Schools of Engineering, Universities of Auckland and Canterbury). They have adapted, for wooden structures, international experience gained in the medium of concrete, particularly in terms of earthquake resistance. The Schools will be closely monitoring the project to compare both the cost-effectiveness of the building and its energy efficiency among other engineering factors.

The LVL suppliers (Nelson Pine Industries Ltd). All the LVL was supplied by Nelson Pine Industries Ltd using locally sourced wood. The quality of their product is world-class and their operation is of global stature.

The LVL Assemblers (Hunter Laminates). In a complex design, raw LVL is of little use unless there is a team with the skill and flair to turn it into the exact component as designed by the architect. Hunter Laminates (part of the Ranex Group that includes the Eurocell mills in Wellington and Nelson, and Westlake Frame & Truss in Christchurch and Timaru) has been producing laminated structural beams for more than 40 years.