

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Zealand's premier building competition celebrates 20 years

The Registered Master Builders House of the Year, in association with PlaceMakers, will celebrate its 20th year with a range of new initiatives in 2010.

Two of the most significant new features this year are a Supreme Award for renovations sponsored by PlaceMakers, to be chosen from the winners of the three renovation categories, and the introduction of a platinum award for companies which have received five or more national awards.

Other initiatives will focus on the competition's history at the regional House of the Year events, including a celebration of significant members' achievements over the past 20 years, and saluting previous supreme award-winning members and projects.

From humble beginnings in 1991, with just 120 entries across four categories, the awards last year featured an impressive 548 entries across 25 building categories covering new homes, renovations, sustainable building and commercial projects.

Registered Master Builders Federation chief executive Warwick Quinn says the House of the Year has set the benchmark for building standards in New Zealand for the past two decades, and the 2010 competition will no doubt raise the bar yet again.

"Whether a building project is a home renovation or a multi-million dollar office complex, Registered Master Builders have proven that they are unmatched when it comes to professionalism and quality workmanship," Mr Quinn says.

John Beveridge, chief executive of principal sponsor PlaceMakers, says the company's association with the House of the Year is a source of immense pride.

"Builders do more than just construct new homes and offices. They create environments that New Zealanders live, work and play in – today and in the decades to come," Mr Beveridge says. "That's a hugely important social and economic contribution to our country.

"And given that building accounts for 5% of New Zealand's GDP and 8% of employment, and is a key foundation industry of our economy, it makes this competition even more relevant," he says.

Among other changes to the competition are modifications and additions to price ranges for the new home categories, which can be viewed on the House of the Year website, www.houseoftheyear.co.nz.

Entries are now open in the Registered Master Builders 2010 House of the Year and RMB Commercial Project Awards. Hard copy entries must be received by 5pm, Friday 26 February with online entries closing at midnight on Sunday 28 February.

The Awards are made possible through the support of principal sponsor PlaceMakers, and supporting sponsors James Hardie, Gib Living Solutions[®], Pink[®] Batts[®] Ultra[®] (Tasman Insulation), Nulook, the Department of Building and Housing, and Meridian.

For further information about the competition or to enter, visit www.houseoftheyear.co.nz or www.rmbcommercial.co.nz or click through from the Registered Master Builders Federation website, www.masterbuilder.org.nz.

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Notes to editors

About the Registered Master Builders 2010 House of the Year and RMB Commercial Project Awards, in association with PlaceMakers

The competition is structured on two levels – regional and national. Gold, Silver and Bronze Award-winners are determined using a points-based system. These award-winners are announced at 20 regional events throughout New Zealand throughout June, July and August.

The top 100 residential Gold Award and top 25 commercial Gold Award winners become national finalists, announced in mid-August. These national finalists are then re-judged by a different panel of judges to determine the overall national category winners.

The national winners will be announced at a gala dinner in Auckland in November.

Major changes in 2010:

- Introduction of a PlaceMakers Renovation Supreme Award
- New Homes \$1 million - \$2 million and New Homes over \$2 million categories (to replace the previous New Homes over \$1 million category)
- New Homes \$450,000 - \$600,000 and New Homes \$600,000 - \$1 million categories (a change in price range from \$650,000 to \$600,000 in these categories)

The other new home categories remain unchanged: New Homes under \$250,000; New Homes \$250,000 - \$350,000; New Homes \$350,000 - \$450,000.

About Registered Master Builders Federation (RMBF)

- The Registered Master Builders Federation (RMBF) represents New Zealand's premier building companies who pride themselves on delivering the highest quality houses and buildings to their clients
- RMBF members represent upwards of two-thirds of every dollar spent on construction each year
- RMBF has been in existence for more than 100 years, providing industry leadership, training and services for its members
- RMBF has more than 1800 registered master builder member companies nationwide, who employ more than 15,000 employees and subcontractors
- There are 22 regional Registered Master Builders Associations throughout New Zealand
- Registered Master Builders are assessed on their building experience, trade or professional qualifications, practical experience, financial viability, client satisfaction and workmanship before membership is approved
- When engaging a Registered Master Builder for a new home, or residential alterations or additions (built under either full contract or a labour-only contract), clients will be offered a Master Build Guarantee, which covers loss of deposit, non-completion of the work, defective workmanship and materials and structural defects (conditions apply)