

Te Atatu Fire Station

Auckland

This brand new state of the art fire station has been designed to house both permanent and volunteer crews. The building accommodates three fire appliances, five bedrooms, two locker rooms, office areas, two kitchens, dining and living spaces, a gymnasium and a lecture room.

The site selected by the Fire Service was positioned to respond to their operational needs however it was a very challenging site due to its steep nature, location on a very busy road and the fact that it is surrounded by residential properties. The corner location of the site allowed a flow of fire appliances through the site to permit easy manoeuvring and quick response to emergency call outs.

The careful arrangement of forms and materials allows this commercial building to sit comfortably into its residential environment while delivering a highly specialised facility. The colour treatment of each of the forms helps to break down the relatively large visual mass of the building, bringing it down to a more domestic scale to suit the residential setting. The incorporation of the NZ Fire Service standard urban colour scheme further assisted in separating the various forms while maintaining the identity of the organisation.

The colours selected were used in conjunction with the other main products. Terracade (a terracotta tile rain screen) to the upstairs sleeping wing and composite cladding to the soffits and fascias to create a stunning visual presence and a real flagship building for the NZ Fire Service.

Terracade reflects the significant use of brick in the surrounding neighbourhood and ties in well with the paint colours of the rest of the building. The colours used




were selected from the New Zealand standard urban colour scheme and were arranged in a way to enhance the forms of the building's design.

The bulk of the building was treated with the simplicity of Resene X-200 weathertight membrane in **Resene Sea Fog** to provide a background for the other feature colours. **Resene Hammerhead** was used on the weatherboard sections of the building more visible from the surrounding residential properties and helped to enhance the shadowing and texture of the material.

The large feature entry panel was painted in Resene X-200 in **Resene Western Red** to give the formal façade of the building real punch and to introduce the recognisable fire engine red to the building. This is complemented by the vibrant colour of the trucks that can be seen through the large glass appliance bay doors adjacent.

Colours to the interior were selected to continue the theme of the exterior to deliver a cohesive product throughout.

 Resene Half Whiteout

Architectural specifier: Black Box Architects, www.blackbox.co.nz

Building contractor: Bindon Construction, www.bindonconstruction.co.nz

Client: NZ Fire Service

Painting contractor: NTP Decorators Ltd, www.ntp.co.nz

Photographer: Caroline Ducobu, www.ducobu.co.nz





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