

Manfeild buildings win architecture awards

The latest Manfeild buildings have received recognition as among the best new structures in the lower North Island.

The Feilding facilities high profile Manfeild Stadium and the circuit's race control building and corporate suites were awarded top honours announced last Friday at a regional presentation. Both buildings won 2009 Western Architecture Awards in the commercial architecture category.

"It's fantastic that two buildings created for very specific purposes but in a highly imaginative way, have been rewarded at the highest professional level," said Manfeild chief executive Heather Verry.

Designed by Campbell and Shadbolt Architects, and built by another Palmerston North firm, Humphries Construction, the buildings have been fully operational for just over a year.

Mrs Verry said the awards were testimony not just to the quality of the buildings' design, but also the quality of workmanship.

"We are thrilled. Users of the stadium, the race control building and the suites have had nothing but praise for these facilities. We're proud that the stadium in particular has been used for a wide variety of different activities and continually comes up trumps."

Both structures have unique features that support their inclusion in commercial building categories, said architect Darren Shadbolt, of Architype.

"The control tower, suite and pit lane development was something completely new in the country in terms of its scale and fit-out and both it and the stadium were designed and built to tight timeframes.

The stadium was just nine months in construction, including a 71.5m single span, one of the largest in the country. The control tower had to be built in less than three months for the 2008 New Zealand Grand Prix.

The stadium "could have been a plain big box, but our role was to add some design to it, and make it look more interesting", Mr Shadbolt said.

The buildings are now eligible for the New Zealand Architecture Awards, announced next April.