

News

10-star home open for show

High-performance houses should be standard in New Zealand according to the designer of a new show home.

THE FIRST HOUSE to be credited with a 10-star Homestar built rating is now open to the public in Addington, Christchurch. Developer and architectural designer Bob Burnett plans to share the design and build information with those wanting to create their own sustainable home.

Bob is part of the Superhome movement, an industry group encouraging the building of 1,000 new homes around New Zealand that rate between 6 and 10 Homestar. He says building high-quality green houses should be standard practice in New Zealand.

Specs that deliver

The house has a combined greywater and rainwater system, water-efficient fittings, photovoltaic solar power and energy-efficient lighting. Paints and sealants used are low VOC.

A solar wall ventilation system uses the sun's energy to preheat ventilation air, substantially reducing heating costs. Slab-edge insulation and innovative hydronic underfloor heating also help keep the house snug.

A high-performance thermal envelope includes external wall frames that are at least 140 mm thick and provide resistance to wind and earthquake loads that far exceeds Building Code requirements. ◀

For more Visit the Superhome website at www.superhome.co.nz.



The 10-star Homestar built rating house has a combined greywater and rainwater system.

IN BRIEF

BRANZ Seminars app

The BRANZ Seminars app for smartphones is now freely downloadable from Apple's app store or Google Play store for Android. It enables users, once they are registered for a seminar, to access the seminar handbook, take notes, view speaker and sponsor profiles and see who else is attending.

For more Visit branzseminars.mobi.

Advanced prefab manufacture

The University of Melbourne is establishing the Australian Research Council (ARC) Training Centre for Advanced Manufacturing of Prefabricated Housing. It aims to unlock the potential of Australia's prefabricated building industry by creating a cooperative training system between industry and universities.

Ideas generated will enable the prefabricated building industry to produce innovative and customer-specific products required in future.

Earthquake resilience funding

The government has invested \$22 million in funding over 5 years for a Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE). Its aim is to improve New Zealand's earthquake resilience and place us at the forefront worldwide of earthquake disaster resilience. CoRE will develop models to understand seismic vulnerabilities and design technologies and decision-support tools for the rapid recovery of communities.

Tool rates innovation

Social and financial innovations in commercial building will now be recognised alongside environmental initiatives in the updated Green Star v3 rating tool. This means broader sustainable development principles such as designing for resilience, preserving culture and heritage and financial transparency will be considered when a building is being rated.

Conference to remember

In July, Registered Master Builders Association members gathered in Hamilton for the annual conference, themed 'Lest we forget' in recognition of the centenary of Gallipoli. Dr Nick Smith, Minister for Building and Housing, told delegates the government's priorities for construction are growing supply, improving affordability and maintaining quality. ◀