



1 Front of St Andrew's College Chapel photo credit Simon Devitt. 2 St Andrew's College Chapel at night showing zig zag facade overlooking Strowan Stream photo credit Siomon Devitt. 3 Inside the Chapel photo credit Simon Devitt. 4 Steel roof from the air.

ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

Holmes for St Andrew's College

Project Location: Christchurch



The St Andrew's College Chapel in Christchurch is an important focal point for the school, and a striking structure that has become a vibrant centre for the local community. The building was built to replace the previous chapel, which had to be demolished following extensive damage caused by the 2011 earthquakes. While it was initially difficult to 'move on' from the original, historic chapel, repair was deemed so difficult and expensive a new structure was the only option. With a large number of interested stakeholders, this was a sensitive, high profile project that needed connect with the local community.

The architectural design has received exceptionally positive feedback, and the structural engineering that brought it to life is equally impressive. The Chapel is single storey with the roof forming the main portion of the structure. The roof has a very complex folded geometry, supported vertically and laterally by two groups of braced steel cores or lattice columns at each end of the building. There is a single storey brick veneer (on concrete masonry) structure which is incorporated into the main building.

The masonry portion of the building is structurally independent from the main roof. Within the main building there is also a small mezzanine floor. The structural system allows a functional, flexible space for school and community activities, as well as supporting the complex and sensuous roof structure that makes the Chapel so memorable and distinctive.

This was a project that unfolded very much in the public eye, replacing a cherished historic structure that many felt was irreplaceable. The outcome is an architecturally compelling chapel enabled by intelligent engineering—a structure that has received strong approval from the school and local community. The Chapel is once again a cornerstone for school activities, a vital and well-patronised piece of local community infrastructure.

Judging & Copyright Statement

This project is an entrant in the 2018 INNOVATE NZ Awards of Excellence competition. The winners will be celebrated at our Awards Gala Dinner on Friday, 3rd August 2018 in Hamilton.

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