

Canterbury firm takes on diverse range of projects

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It was constructed from steel with stone cladding at the base, materials commonly used in agricultural buildings, and was built right up to the main street boundary, to allow for the development of a large outdoor green space for community activities.

"The building's structural system was designed for increased seismic performance, with many of the elements, such as diagonal bracing and portal frames being exposed within the building," says Woods.

Low energy, sustainable design solutions were integrated at an early stage to provide a comfortable internal environment, with good natural daylighting and outlook.

The Equitable House project saw Image initially engaged by loss adjustors Cunningham Lindsay to provide earthquake repair works to the 1960's Warren and Mahoney designed building.

"The repairs led to us being engaged to complete a multi-floor fit-out for Christchurch City Council in the building, and we are just finishing the top floor fit-out for a company of barristers.

"We also fitted out an apartment on level two, and have put together a design build proposal for the little bit of tenable space that is still available."

One of the biggest constraints of the project has been the building's proximity to the earthquake damaged, historic Public Trust building next door.

"We've had to maintain a six metre distance from the building, and engaged an engineer to design a big steel gantry which was constructed to protect both our workers, and the people occupying Equitable House."

Woods says the market in Canterbury has had its ups and downs since the earthquakes but the work is flowing better now.

"There are opportunities in the post earthquake environment but also constraints with a lot of things outside contractors' hands.

"Clients often have to work through insurance issues before projects can progress."

However after well over 20 years in the local industry, Image is no stranger to the vagaries of the market.

Graeme Hartnell founded the company in 1992, when he was keen to establish a company of builders that offered a high quality product, with service to match.

Since then, the firm has established its reputation in Canterbury for its professionalism and reliability and has completed hundreds of building projects.

Woods says the medium sized company is still growing. However the directors don't intend to grow it too much larger.

"Controlled and sustained growth has always been a hallmark of Image in order to preserve our reputation for delivering a highly personalised service and top quality product."



Image Construction carried out earthquake repairs and refurbishment of Equitable House in Christchurch's Hereford Street.

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