

# Media Release

## New Zealand/Italian alliance wins competition to design urban village for Christchurch

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A partnership between a dynamic young Christchurch building company and an award-winning Italian architecture firm has been named as the winner of the Breathe – New Urban Village design competition.

The entry from the Holloway Team, led by Riccarton-based Holloway Builders with architects Anselmi Attiani Architettura and engineers Cresco, both from Italy, was hailed by judges as well-designed and structurally innovative, as well as an affordable and sustainable option.

The unique competition issued an international challenge for teams to come up with a financially viable benchmark design for 21st century inner city living offering an exceptional quality of life.

The winning partnership, subject to finance, will now be able to build and market the development on the 8,149sqm site on the corner of Madras and Gloucester Streets, opposite Latimer Square, in central Christchurch. Breathe is an Anchor Project as listed in the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan.

The village will include 72 timber-clad dwellings combining medium rise apartment blocks with two and three storey housing. It will incorporate cutting edge seismic-resistance techniques known as ARMIDILLO™, which is both earthquake resilient and offers a fast way of re-leveling and stabilising dwellings post-earthquake to allow re-occupation. The innovative Pres-Lam construction technology - developed in New Zealand - is being considered as part of the light-weight, sustainable structural solution.

The winning entry, selected from four finalists, was announced at an event held at the transitional Cardboard Cathedral in Christchurch today by Building and Construction Minister, Hon. Maurice Williamson.



Christchurch Mayor Elect Lianne Dalziel said the competition had energised thinking around central city residential construction.

This announcement was originally published on [ccdu.govt.nz](http://ccdu.govt.nz) and [beehive.govt.nz](http://beehive.govt.nz)

“The winning design is hugely exciting and an example of the innovation and opportunities the Christchurch rebuild is generating. It is also a tribute to the high standard of the finalists that elements of each could be picked up for the Christchurch rebuild.

“There is a good balance of private and shared amenities that will continue to foster the community life and spirit we hold precious not only in Christchurch but throughout New Zealand, while providing a new kind of urban living.