



THE WAIROA
Educational Building

CASE STUDY

PROJECT DETAILS

Location
 Wairoa, East Coast

Size
 5,584m²

Project Type
 Educational Buildings

Project Manager:
 RDT Pacific

Architectural Designer
 RTA Studio (Richard Naish, Ben Dallimore, Moshin Mussa, and Tim Sargisson)

Contractor
 Stead Construction

FEATURED PRODUCTS

· Stria™ Cladding

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Ngati Kahungunu O Te Wairoa (kura) is a Māori-language immersion school located in the remote township of Wairoa on the east coast of the North Island.

OVERVIEW

The kura provides a learning environment that reflects Māori cultural values and aims to revitalise Māori language, knowledge, and culture.

In line with the philosophy and practice of the kura, the existing 1960s school buildings on the site have been replaced with a fresh new centre of modern learning that looks to the future, while maintaining strong links with the past.

The new kura reflects Wairoa's unique culture, history, and landscape through a design that inspires learning and promotes the fulfilment of potential in Wairoa's rangatahi (younger generation / youth), and the

use of new building materials and technologies.

THE CHALLENGE

The key challenges were finding building materials that ticked all the boxes, in terms of durability, buildability and aesthetics. The project required a building that the children and staff enjoyed spending time in, and that was also built to last.

THE JAMES HARDIE SOLUTION

The exterior is clad with Stria Cladding, a 14mm thick fibre cement panel fixed vertically, which achieves the modern look envisioned by architects, RTA Studio, and the durability required by the Ministry of Education's building standards.





STRIA™ CLADDING

The wider format of Stria Cladding along with the deep grooved lines deliver a look that's distinctive and modern. It can be laid horizontally or vertically, introducing an interesting feature to the walls of any design.



Other building materials were considered but Stria Cladding provided the most cost effective, practical solution.

RTA Studio considered other building materials, but Stria Cladding provided the most cost-effective, practical solution. Durability, buildability, and aesthetics were key drivers to selection.

The wide panel format enabled building efficiencies through fast coverage of the wall, and provided a durable solution down to slab level, in line with the Ministry's standards. Manufactured from fibre cement composite, the panels are lightweight and easy to handle, as well as delivering heavy-duty performance in terms of durability.

Another advantage of using Stria Cladding was the ability to paint the panels any colour. The vertically

installed panels are painted in purple, which is the school colour. Green and orange are also used to reference the forest and sunrise, which are significant to the local community. Maori respected the ancient forest for shelter, food and building materials, and the use of timber fins in the overhangs of the building, which provide shaded outdoor teaching spaces, reflect this tradition.

In terms of buildability, Stria Cladding is simple and fast to install with its wide panel format and lightweight fibre cement composite which makes it easy to handle. The fibre cement technology also allows it to deliver heavy-duty performance in terms of its durability.