

Case Study

Chrysalis Early Learning Centre, Auckland

ZinaCore[™] cladding blends well with the natural aesthetic of the Chrysalis ELC, while providing a durable and safe environment for all.

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Designed and built as a state of the art early learning centre, Chrysalis is attractive, spacious and enhances learning and development.

The starting point for an innovative childcare centre was the location of the site itself, which presented both the problem and solution: the trees.

The Chrysalis Early Learning Centre is a unique, ground-breaking concept in early childcare education. A vision for a family environment of learning and fun is reflected in both the centre's key philosophies and the physical structure as well.

The brief was to create a unique and innovative learning environment that was influenced by both traditional Maori and New Zealand symbolism and culture. However, the site is a commercial zone and is dominated by two mature, protected trees. An English Oak tree and a native Pohutukawa, both of equal size and standing side by side with their branches touching at the heart of the site, provided the perfect metaphor for the site's new use – a multicultural childcare centre.

The structural design allowed for ample space around the trees, which separates out the various elements of the new centre and provides a protective enclosure around the root zone. The building represents Papa (earth mother) who was locked in a tight embrace with Rangi (sky father), and so the graceful curve of the building appears like two arms reaching out to the sky.

Substrate:

Zina Core™

Colour Black

Location Avondale,
Auckland

Environment
Moderate

Installation
Dimond Roofing

Rollformer
Dimond Roofing

View online at
colorcote.co.nz/gallery

Classroom sizes are large and open, with cocoon-like work and play structures inside. Indoor/outdoor flow is created by the continuous adjustable glass wall facing the "play garden", which incorporates native planting with a natural pallet of materials, and includes a discovery maze and an edible garden and fruit orchard.

ColorCote® core roofing and cladding product, ZinaCore™, was chosen for the learning centre and is suitable for moderate, inland climates. The roofing blends well with the natural aesthetic of the learning centre and "play garden" and its superior durability ensures a safe learning environment for years to come.

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