

YIMFY¹ – YES! IN MY FRONT YARD.

A CENTRE FOR APPROPRIATE BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

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Our built environment creates large demands on both energy and material resources. Building codes protect people's health and safety, but in doing so there is an inadvertent impact on the wider environment, resulting in the destruction of ecosystems that support us all. We need to actively explore and encourage different and better ways of natural building so that the well being of both the environment and people are not harmed.

Appropriate technology is an important part of this strategy and is suited to time, place, culture, and environment. It uses local materials to do useful work in ways that do the least possible harm, while remaining very aware of the impacts of its use.

Technologies are required that are not harmful to have close by -indeed we are proud to show them off. Hence the term YIMFY² – Yes! In My Front Yard.

Exploratory and experimental building is difficult to carry out under current NZ building regulations that do not encourage appropriate ecological design. Such work conducted in an Appropriate Technology Development (YIMFY) Centre would feed working technologies suitable for NZ conditions into the New Zealand built environment, with the aim of helping produce new, or retrofitted, buildings that are environmentally restorative. It would encourage affordable, assisted, owner building.

A YIMFY Centre set up to be run by suitably experienced professionals will have a large positive economic impact locally. It will help reduce our dependency on fossil fuels as we head into post peak-oil energy descent scenarios. Its work will add positively to the New Zealand economy as a whole and help establish New Zealand as a leader in earth stewardship.

It will show by example. The key items are exemplary design elements to capture the public imagination, combined with key personnel, and a good business model.

References:

[http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/vwluResources/WCMFReport10North/\\$file/WCMFReport10North.pdf](http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/vwluResources/WCMFReport10North/$file/WCMFReport10North.pdf)

Winston Churchill 2010 Fellowship Report. Graeme North, 2011

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¹ YIMBY is a term coined by Rod Miner, Center for Resourceful Technology, Montana, with an obvious reference to NIMBY – Not In My Back Yard. It was altered at Min Hall's suggestion to YIMFY

