

as seen in

metropol

**CANTERBURY
BUILD**



**Malcolm
Fleming**

**New Zealand Institute
of Building CEO**

The construction industry's perceived inability to be an innovation adopter is receiving considerable attention of late. This is not just a local problem. In 2016, the World Economic Forum labelled the global construction industry's track record on innovation adoption as "unimpressive". Closer to home, a recent Herald headline read: "Building, the industry that got left behind". In my view, market forces will drive innovation. In the current low-margin environment, the market has little capacity to pay more for a new building, house, or piece of infrastructure. Therefore, in order to provide competitive advantage, the sector needs to develop ways to cut cost and time from the construction process.

One such example of this playing out is the builder who won the Innovation category at the recent NZIOB Awards for Excellence. He developed a rolling gantry that temporarily supported 12 tonnes of roof area, while providing a safe working platform. That innovation cut 15 weeks from the build programme.

Sometimes a little incentive helps. This year, the NZIOB Charitable Trust awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to an academic proposing to develop New Zealand's first Facades major for a construction qualification. Another winner will use their \$10,000 prize to fund research into ways to reduce the construction industry's waste.

The BRANZ led Industry Transformation Agenda addresses the innovation adoption deficit in New Zealand. With meaningful buy-in across the industry, construction is set for a powerful sea-change to the way the sector designs, documents, and delivers our built environment.