

techTALK

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25
years
young



“Resilience is really the story of the Techlam journey. We started off doing window reveals and have diversified into structural beams and it’s grown from there.”

We’ve come a long way since the early days spent working out of Andrew’s garage and are proud to be here 25 years later.

While technology might have changed how we do things, what have always remained are the values of honesty, integrity and commitment to our customers that Andrew instilled in the company from day one.

With Christmas upon us, we’d also like to take this opportunity to wish our staff, suppliers and customers a very happy and safe holiday season.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Techlam’s 25th birthday morning tea. [Page 2](#)

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Several of our staff have been with us from the beginning. [Page 2](#)

TECHLAM’S FOUNDER

Andrew Hamilton discusses Techlam’s growth over the years. [Page 8](#)

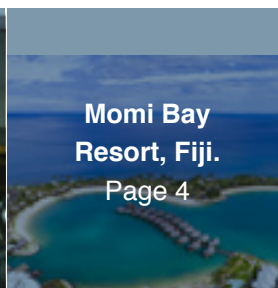
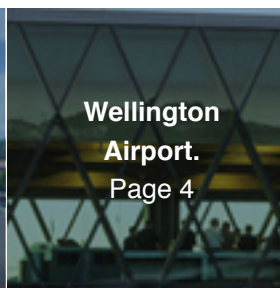
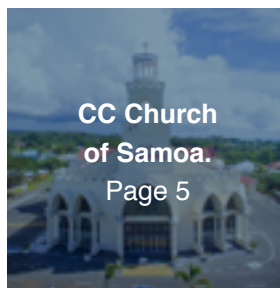
THROUGH THE YEARS

See how Techlam has grown over the years.

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PROJECT MILESTONES

We’ve brought our expertise to many great projects. See inside for some of our favourites.



// Happy 25th Birthday!

We thought 25 years was worth celebrating, so last month the team got together for a special morning tea.



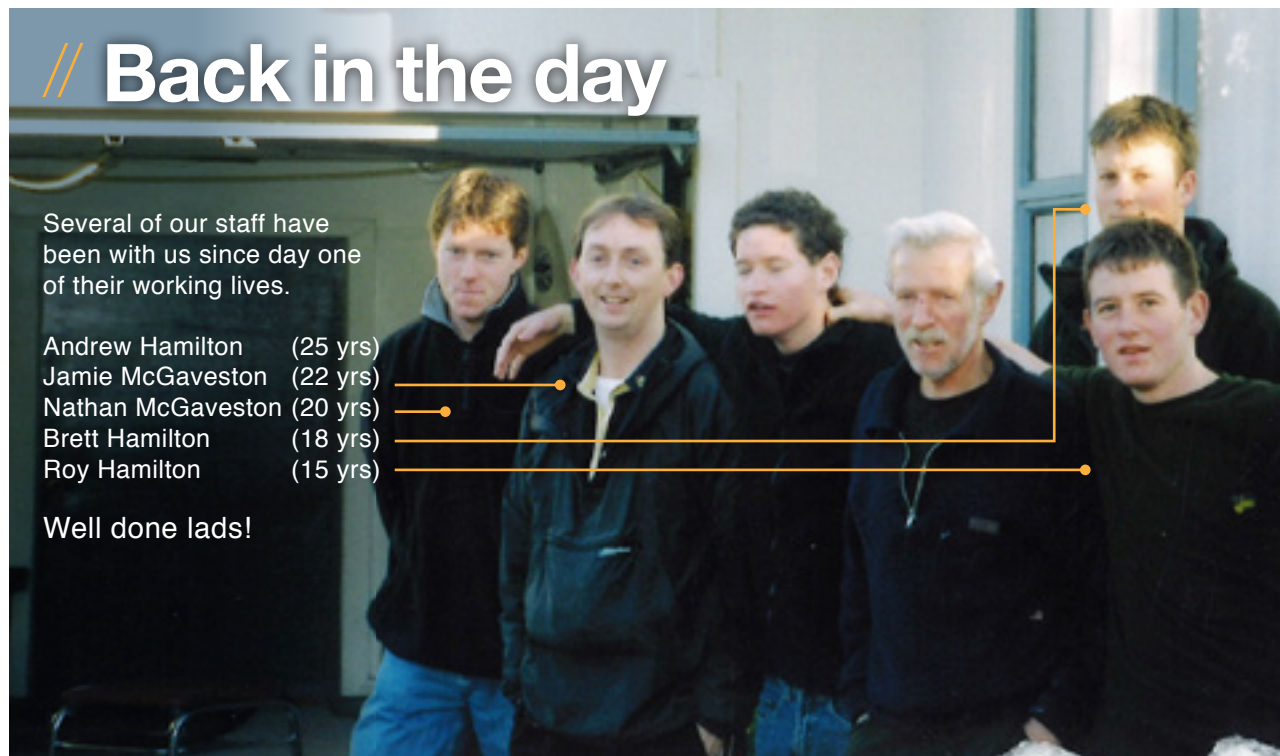
The Techlam team today.

// Back in the day

Several of our staff have been with us since day one of their working lives.

Andrew Hamilton	(25 yrs)
Jamie McGaveston	(22 yrs)
Nathan McGaveston	(20 yrs)
Brett Hamilton	(18 yrs)
Roy Hamilton	(15 yrs)

Well done lads!



// Techlam: a story of growth and resilience.

1992, Andrew's garage – where it all began.

A lot can happen in 25 years for a family business that started out in a garage.

Andrew Hamilton, a trade certified builder, worked out of his home producing archways for residential homes, which then evolved into manufacturing curved reveals and frames for aluminium windows. Son Brett joined his father straight out of school, as a 16-year-old.

"My job was sweeping the floor, tidying up and doing some sanding and machining. Technology as we know it now was virtually non-existent so it was very labour intensive. Now as general manager, I see those years gave me a solid understanding of the business and how things are manufactured."

"As the business grew, we needed bigger premises and shifted several times until ending up in the building we're in now, which has the capacity for manufacturing larger structural beams," he explains.

Brett says the New Zealand timber industry is innovative and over the past decades, products have evolved with the help of technology and an eye on Europe, the global glulam industry leader.

"A lot of the technology and product development has been driven out of Europe. The improvements in adhesive and treatment technologies, which have been used overseas for many years, are now being adopted here. There has also been a leap in working with new timber species and engineered structural designs, which has resulted in innovative solutions like our new Sprucelam range, and European structural joint connections."

With Techlam's growing customer base now extending from New Zealand shores to the Pacific and further afield, demand for structural laminated timber is high, particularly in the project market. Evidence is seen in some stunning projects including Wellington Airport, Scots College and Fiji's Momi Bay Resort.

"We have two arms to our business: one is dealing directly with the client to provide structural products for buildings like gyms, libraries, hotels and community or education centres. This involves our in-house design department working closely with engineers and architects. The other arm is selling beams and posts to merchants like Bunnings or Placemakers. Each is as valuable as the other to our business."

Marking a quarter of a century in business, Brett says he feels an enormous sense of achievement. "It hasn't been without its challenges, especially with the GFC, but we became resilient as a result. As a business we've always diversified so if one market goes quiet, there's always something to turn to, to keep everyone busy and employed.

"Resilience is really the story of the Techlam journey. We started off doing window reveals and have diversified into structural beams and it's grown from there."

As for the next 25 years? Brett says there's significant capital expansion plans in progress to improve the production facility and increase capacity. And he's looking forward to seeing more architectural projects come to life.

// Milestone Projects

Over the past 25 years, we've brought our expertise to many great projects. Here are some of our favourites.

Momi Bay Resort, Fiji

Opened in early 2017, Momi Bay Resort is one of Fiji's most exclusive destinations.

A five-star Marriot hotel, Momi is perhaps best known for its 22 bures, which stand alone in the crystal waters surrounding the resort, in Fiji's first man-made lagoon.

Techlam supplied structural laminated timber for the project, featuring dozens of curved tapered 'tusks' as the main rafter features, along with the supply of other structural glulam beams. It's a stunning resort and a fabulous place to relax and unwind in privacy overlooking the water.

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CC Church of Samoa

Malua is a small village on the Samoan island of Upolu and CCCS has been building a new church for the last few years. We worked with the church and engaged our engineer to redesign the structure so it was stronger, (and more importantly for the client) more efficient and less costly to build!

We created a design that incorporated a 'box beam' configuration. This meant we could create a beam that matched the width of the concrete columns already poured on site, enabling a seamless transition from the walls through to the rafter beams. The beams are a massive 19 metres above the floor level!

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Wellington Airport

The curved glulam X columns are arguably one of the most striking features of the south extension.

We got involved early on in this project and worked with the contracting and architect team to produce the complex beams and columns that support the structure to the South West Pier. Running the length of the extension, the columns not only look good but are an important structural element and provide a striking feature in the airport.

The curved glulam columns were manufactured and assembled at our plant, which has 6,000m² of production area, making it the country's largest structural glulam timber manufacturing facility.

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Scots College

"This was an interesting project to manufacture as we had limited equipment in plant for this sort of project work and we had to improvise."

— ROY HAMILTON

Designed by Athfield Architects, Hodge Sports Centre is a large sporting and recreation facility at Scots College.

The building's primary structure consists of complex curved glulam portals with a covering shell of polycarbonate cladding. The gentle curves of the portals create small scale spaces between the portal legs, where there are seating and storage elements. The secondary structure is made up of timber LVL purlins and steel cross-bracing tension roles, and the tubular interior space forms a protective shell from Wellington's weather, allowing year-round sporting activities.

The structure received a Highly Commended at the 2012 Timber Design Awards.

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// Techlam through the ages



1993
Andrew moved his workshop to a rented building in Levin.



1996
A 375m² factory was built in Levin.

2000
Brett Hamilton joined the company.

2003
Roy Hamilton joined the company.



2005
Shifted into new 6,000m² premises in Tiro Tiro Road.

2013
New European designed hydraulic presses installed.

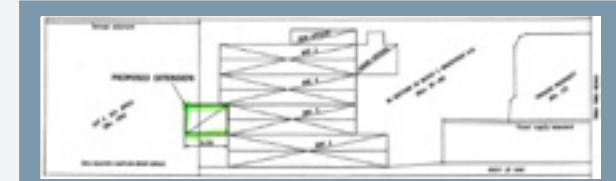
techlam®
timber redefined

2014
Techlam gets a brand refresh.

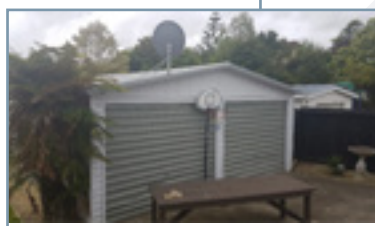
2014
Press for curved beams designed, built and commissioned.

2018
Proposed extension of 360m² to plant to enable growth in laminating area.

2016
New Finger Jointing line imported from Europe and commissioned.



1990 • • • • 1995 • • • • 2000 • • • • 2005 • • • • 2010 • • • • 2015 • • • • 2020



1992
Andrew and Anna Hamilton launched the business trading as Craftbuilt Industries from their garage in Levin.



1998
Beam press set up and the first bridge made for Stanmore Bay, Whangaparaoa.



2002
Alterations doubled the building to 800m² of production area.



1999
Rented additional building – now a total of 650m² of production area.



2006
The Techlam brand was launched. New machinery was purchased.



2011
Moved into the South Pacific markets.



2017
An Auckland-based account manager was added to the team.

A full in-house CAD/BIM design and drafting department was added.

2020
Capital expansion plan implemented and underway, including new production equipment, CNC processing equipment and automated handling.



2017 Techlam today.

// Our founder, Andrew Hamilton

After 25 years in business, Andrew Hamilton says he still has a passion for structural laminated timber.

While he may have “pulled back” a bit and let his two sons Brett and Roy become the driving force of the company, Andrew is immensely proud of what Techlam has achieved so far.

“Watching how the business has grown is very satisfying. I like progress and seeing improvements that enable us to do things better. Developments in technology and equipment keep us at the cutting edge of the industry, which give our customers the best possible products and service.”

From just two staff back in 1992, Techlam now has 38 working in its Levin plant.

“Techlam has been, and will probably always be, a family business. My two sons and two of my daughters have gone through the business and there may even be some grandchildren who will join us soon! It has given me great pleasure to be able to provide work for my family and the local community.”

Andrew says he still stands firm by the values and principles instilled in him as a young man.

“Loyalty, doing an honest day’s work and treating people the way you’d like to be treated are the main ones. I expect employees to be honest and in return, I’m responsible to pay them well, train them and look after them. That won’t ever change.”

Diversification and resilience are two words Andrew uses a lot.

“We had just bought the building we’re in now and a dust extraction unit and then the GFC hit. We needed to diversify so set up another arm of the company manufacturing and installing pedestrian structures throughout New Zealand and Australia. The business provides good support to Techlam – we design them here and incorporate glulam products – it’s a win-win.”



Andrew on site inspecting a completed project.