

# Aigantighe Heritage House, Timaru

Timaru District Council

## Strengthening a heritage icon

### Scope

Farrell Construction was engaged to deliver the seismic strengthening and restoration of Aigantighe Heritage House, a turn of the century building that houses an art collection of national significance. The 12-month project combined structural upgrades with climate control and fire suppression improvements, ensuring the building's long-term safety and preservation.

### Process

The project began with re-levelling the building and installing new foundations, piles and floor substrates. Roof structures and cladding were upgraded, external wall cladding repaired, and the interior fully refurbished, including windows, joinery and finishes. Significant temporary works were undertaken to maintain structural stability and weather tightness throughout the programme. Flexibility was also essential to adapt restoration methods to on-site conditions.

### Solution

Farrell made it a priority to use local Timaru trades and suppliers, combining regional expertise with Christchurch-based oversight. The project was completed on time and to budget, while meeting Heritage Grade 1 quality standards – ensuring the house will stand as a resilient landmark for future generations to enjoy.

**Sector**  
Heritage

**Service**  
Main contractor:  
Seismic  
strengthening  
and restoration

**Timeframe**  
12 months  
Completed 2025

**Consultants**  
Architect: Irving Smith  
Other consultants:  
Dunning Thornton

