

254 PONSONBY ROAD DESIGN CONCEPT



OPTION ONE

The design maintains a strong connection with Ponsonby Road with open edges and the paving extending out into the adjacent streets to blur the interface between the street and the reserve.

The design has a suitable balance of hard paved and green space areas with a progression from active road edge to the more informal and passive area at the western end of the site. The paved square at the eastern end provides a large multi-use activity space for community gatherings and events.

The concept identifies the potential for the existing café on the northern boundary to spill out into the reserve to activate this area at various times of the day.

Wide steps provide a transition from the square to the grassed open space, and together with the fragmentation of the paving provide a feeling of continuity between these areas.

The Ponsonby Road /O'Neill Street corner of the site has been identified as a suitable location for a large public artwork. This would provide a distinctive marker for the site from the road to assist in creating a strong identity for the reserve. The sculpture shown in the concept is indicative only. It represents an upright waka that reflects the importance of the Ponsonby ridge as an important transportation route both today and in pre-European times for Maori as a link between Maungawhau (Mt Eden) and the headland Paa at Point Erin and St Marys Bay.

Local heritage is also reflected in the design of the paving. The grid layout reflects the traditional street layout of the area. The large format of the grid will also enhance impression of space within this area. The defined borders of the grid are reminiscent of Victorian tiles that can still be seen at the fronts of some of the historic houses in the area. A simple Polynesian motif is also incorporated into the paving making reference to the Pacific people who have formed a rich part of the local heritage. Natural ochre tones have been selected for the paving to provide visual warmth.

The grid pattern is extended 3 dimensionally within the design with the use of a cubic forms for the site furniture and fittings such as seats and bollards. Seating is comprised of a mixture of timber and concrete cubes of various sizes distributed in informal clusters. As well as providing sculptural elements, the various sizes and arrangements provide a diversity of options for gatherings and interaction between individuals and groups. The clusters of seats are also arranged in a scattered formation to provide visual interest and relief from the more regimented nature of the grid layout. This contrast of informality is strengthened further by the unstructured arrangement of the specimen trees that are also scattered along the periphery of the paved area.

An arbor structure covered with climbing plants continues the grid in the vertical plane and would provide a more enclosed intimate space offering a shaded retreat along the northern edge of the square.

Further shade, structure and scale for the site would be provided by the relative abundance of specimen trees, which together with the mixed shrub planting along the northern and western boundaries would provide an appealing vegetated backdrop and buffer to the neighbouring residential properties.
