

## 254 PONSONBY ROAD DESIGN CONCEPT



### OPTION TWO

Option Two maintains a similar spatial arrangement to Option One, but differs in materiality and design details. Therefore similarly it maintains a strong connection with Ponsonby Road with open edges and paving extending into the adjacent streets to blur the interface between the street and the reserve.

The design also has a suitable balance of hard paved and green space areas with a progression from the 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. Steps provide a transition to the western end and further opportunities for informal gathering.

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.

The origin of the design layout and design elements is based on the stepped *Poutama* pattern that is often seen in tukutuku panels and woven mats. This symbolises genealogies and various forms of advancement. This pattern also extends vertically with a series of cascading grassed terraces that occupy the central portion of the site on the northern side of the square.

The changes in level created by the terraces and the steps provide an interesting topographical variation to the site and define the series of interlinked spaces.

The Poutama pattern further influences the form and set out of the timber platform seats which are distributed in different arrangements to provide a variety of opportunities for interaction.

Shelter and shade is provided by several sculptural 'cloud canopies' which appear to float over the site.

A reflection pond is located on the Ponsonby Road /O'Neill Street corner to provide a tranquil feature marking the entrance to the site and transition from the street environment.

The area of lawn provides a sizeable green space for relief from the hard urban surroundings. A small play area associated with the lawn provides for basic play opportunities. Although separated from the main activity space of the site the play area retains good passive surveillance from both the street and the remainder of the site. A safety fence provides separation from the nearby carriageway.

Specimen trees around the periphery of the site provide shade, structure and scale to the site. These 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.

---