

Rebuilding Justice: Court Symbolism and Design after the Christchurch Earthquakes

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District Courts of New Zealand

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The Earthquakes

- ▣ **4 September 2010 at 4.35 am – magnitude 7.1**
 - Significant property damage but no loss of life
 - Full court services resumed within a week

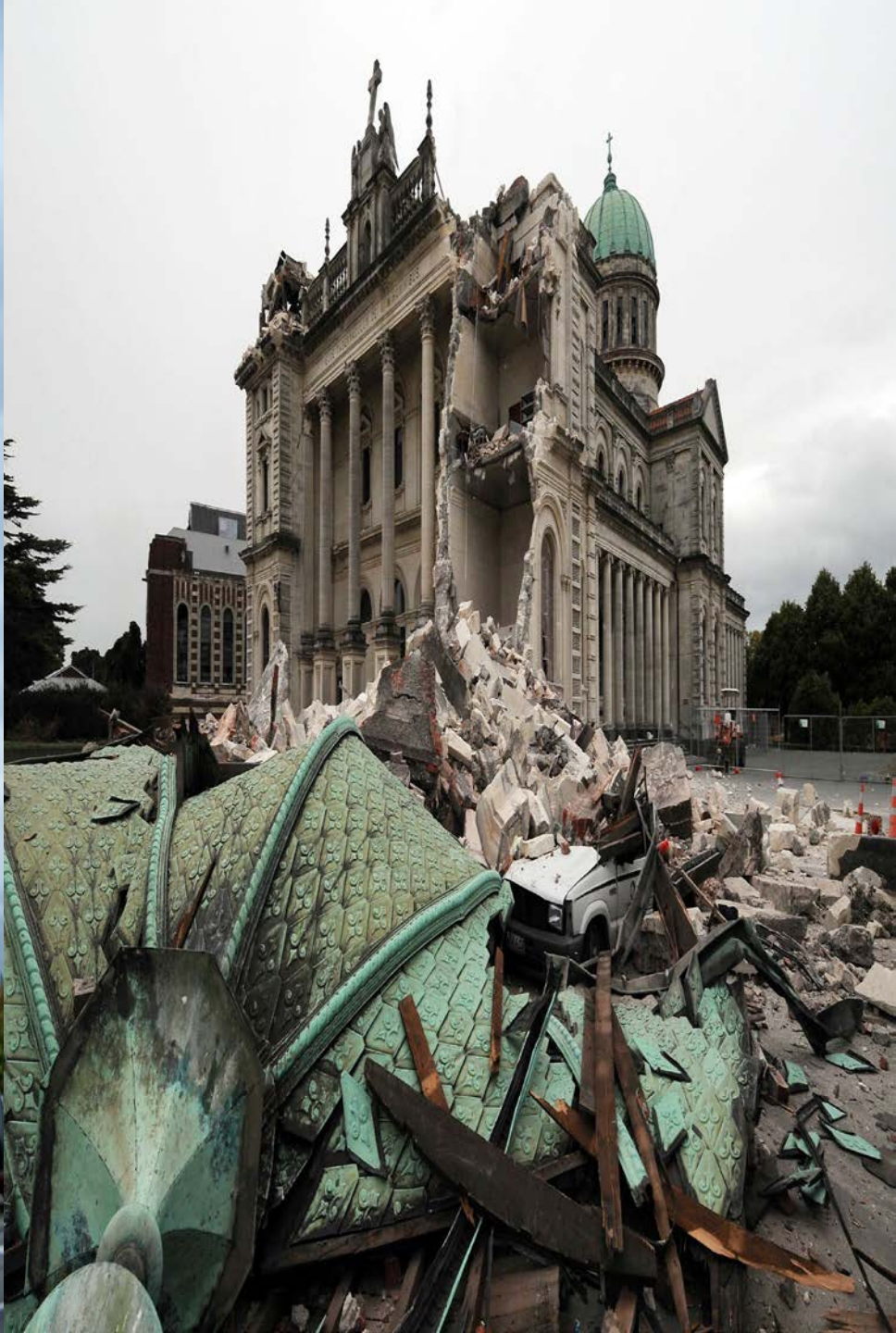
- ▣ **22 February 2011 at 12.51 pm – magnitude 6.3**
 - Intensity and violence of the ground shaking was among the strongest ever recorded globally in an urban area
 - Resulted in declaration of New Zealand's first National State of Emergency











BEFORE



AFTER









Impact

- ▣ **185 people killed, including: 80 foreign nationals; 100 from one building collapse**
- ▣ **Tens of thousands of residential properties affected – liquefaction, lateral spreading, and rock fall**
- ▣ **Over 7000 homes will not be reoccupied**
- ▣ **Estimated \$2.2 billion damage to city sewer, water and roading network**
- ▣ **Over 70% of CBD demolished or partially demolished**

Impact on courts

- ▣ **All court buildings were safely evacuated – no Ministry staff or judicial officers killed or injured**
- ▣ **All court buildings were in the central city within the red zone cordon**
- ▣ **Court building access restricted for 5 months**
- ▣ **Buildings required structural and geo-technical engineering evaluations prior to reoccupation**
- ▣ **Communication channels disrupted**

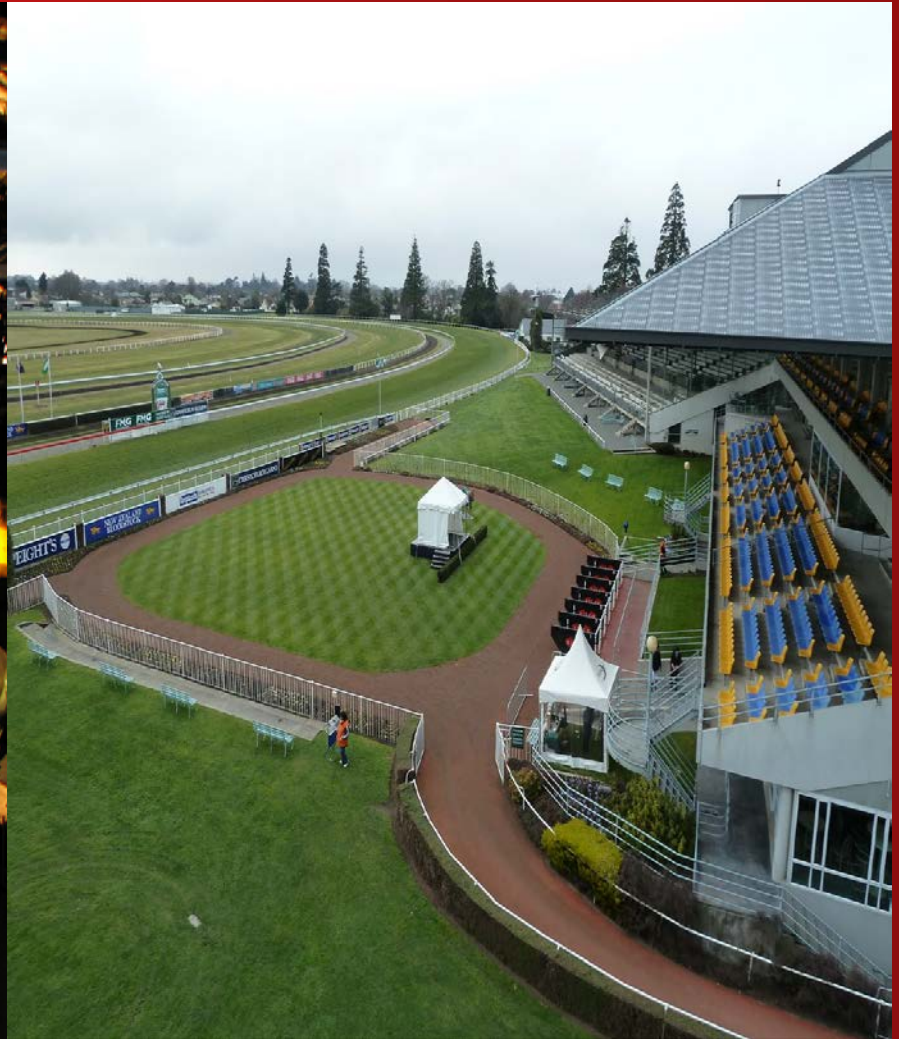
Interim arrangements

- ▣ **Industrial warehouse hired for registry space**
- ▣ **Public enquires diverted to Auckland contact centre – data squirt used to communicate to staff and clients**
- ▣ **Operating out of 12 interim sites within two months, including a racecourse, an Air Force museum, and various hired venues**

Interim arrangements (cont'd)

- ▣ **A criminal court established at a Marae for District Court Summary matters**
- ▣ **Where practical, cases shifted to provincial courts**
- ▣ **Regional/centralised approach to managing space and people essential – not jurisdictionally based**

No ordinary venues



Nga Hau e Wha Marae



Marae Sitting



View from Courtroom Entrance



View from Judge's Bench



Judges' Chambers at Marae



Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011

- 1. Purpose – enable focused, timely and expedited recovery**
- 2. Recovery plan for CBD**
- 3. Wide powers to demolish buildings, take land**
- 4. Suspended resource/planning documents of local authorities**

Recovery Plan for Central Christchurch

- ▣ Developed by professional consortium over a 100 day period
- ▣ Consulted the public – 100,000 suggestions
 - ✓ Green city
 - ✓ Stronger built identity
 - ✓ Compact CBD
 - ✓ Accessibility for work, play, learn, visit
- ▣ Released in July 2012

Blueprint for CBD

- ▣ **Provided spatial framework for the Central City**
- ▣ **Key focus – consolidate central area for better functionality**
- ▣ **Design principles:**
 - ✓ **Compress size and scale to generate critical mass**
 - ✓ **Contain within a frame**
 - ✓ **Position anchor projects as catalyst to private development**
 - ✓ **Locate anchor projects to support existing amenities**
 - ✓ **Focus on areas that need most help to develop**



Sector Precinct Proposal

- ▣ **Eight organisations and the judiciary housed in one precinct**
- ▣ **Other organisations providing justice and emergency services would work alongside these on daily basis**
- ▣ **For the users: more accessible, streamlined services**
- ▣ **For the agencies: more integrated approach, eg shared training facilities, flexible working spaces**

Precinct Vision and Outcomes

Vision: The precinct will deliver trusted and effective justice and emergency services – in a facility that reflects a civic presence, stands for the integrity of the occupants, and of which the people of Christchurch can be proud

A public facility that contributes to a vibrant urban environment in Christchurch

Services that are modern, accessible, resilient and people-centred

Improved joint outcomes and service delivery

A flexible, fit-for-purpose long term asset

A facility that respects the independence of the institutions and occupants it houses, and strengthens collaboration where appropriate

Design Principles

A safe, open and welcoming facility that builds trust and confidence – internally for staff and externally for the community.

Culturally appropriate – reflecting the proud heritage of Christchurch's civic past and tangata whenua.

Best and most efficient use of innovative design, practices and systems to enable proactive, reactive, agile, and informed service delivery.

Flexible working spaces and facilities that encourage inter-connectivity, optimise use of space, and support common work practices.

International standards are assessed and the facility is aligned to appropriate industry building and fitout standards. A consentable, sustainable, resilient, affordable, fit-for-purpose, and long-term cost-efficient facility. Makes a positive contribution to the urban environment.

Appropriate privacy is balanced with good public access for service users and service providers (both occupants and non-occupants).

Maximises the ability to provide users with connected justice and emergency services. Efficient access to people, teams and providers – making it faster and easier to work together. Independent and specialised services are recognised and enabled. The unique requirements of different roles and jurisdictions are supported.

An adaptable and flexible facility that can be reconfigured for both emergency and planned changes and growth over time – responding quickly and easily to changing demands.

Demonstrates that the judiciary is independent and free to act without improper pressure, and that any person subject to the jurisdiction of the court is seen to be equal before it.

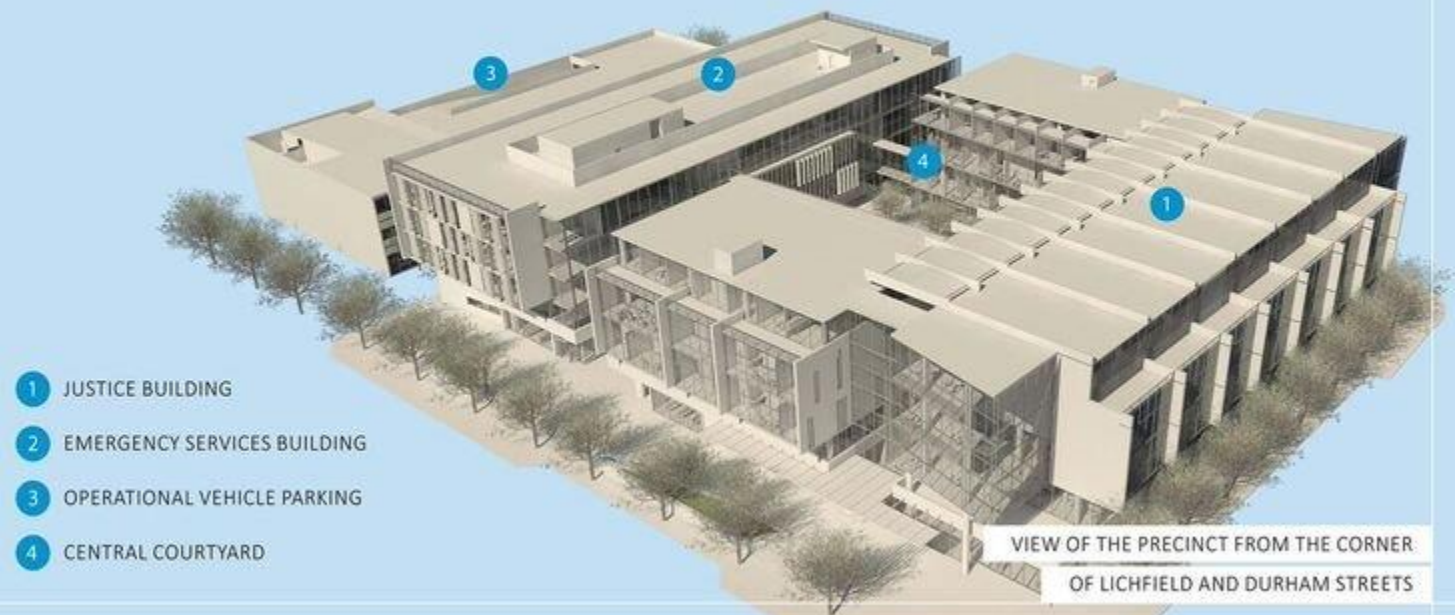
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CHRISTCHURCH JUSTICE & EMERGENCY SERVICES PRECINCT







Integrated Culture-Based Artwork



Traditional Marae Wall



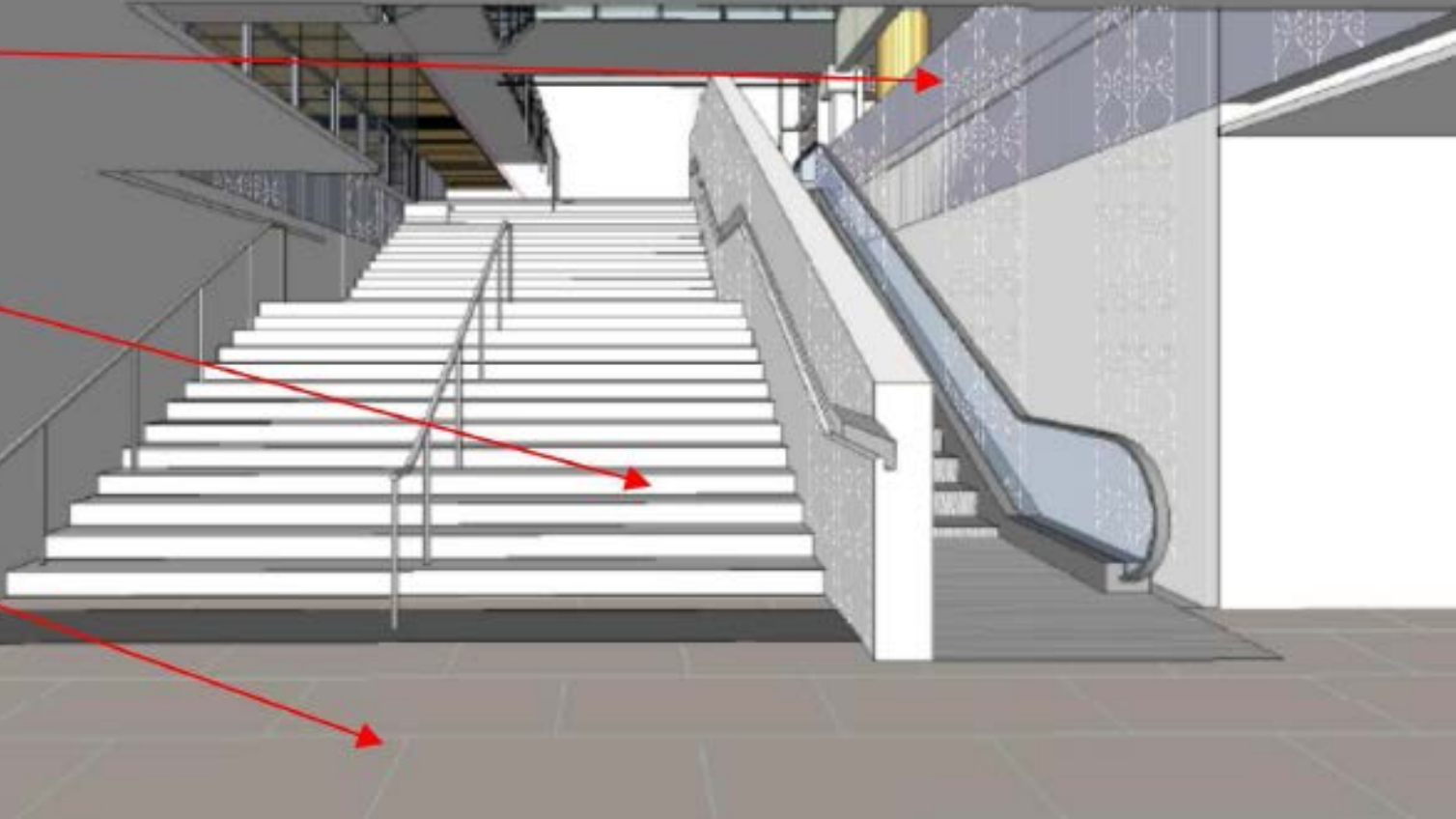
Integrated Artwork



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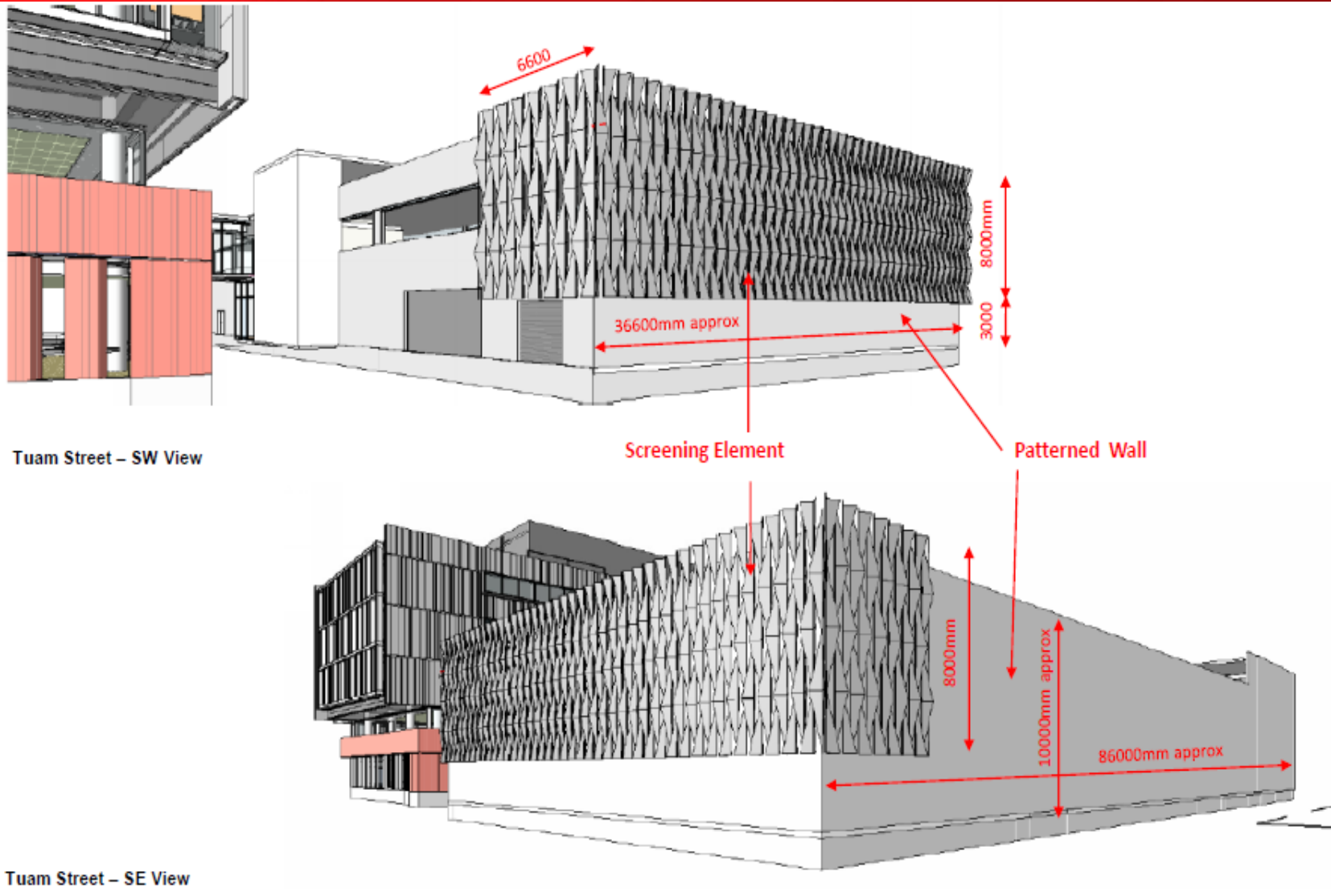
Integrated Artwork



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Car Parking Building

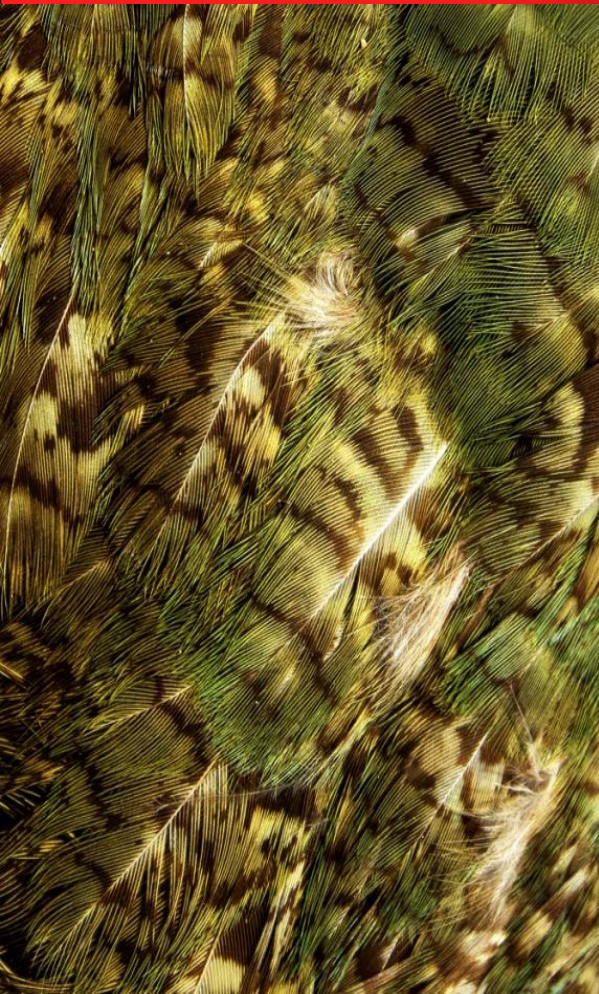


Concept Stage – Kakahu (Cloak)

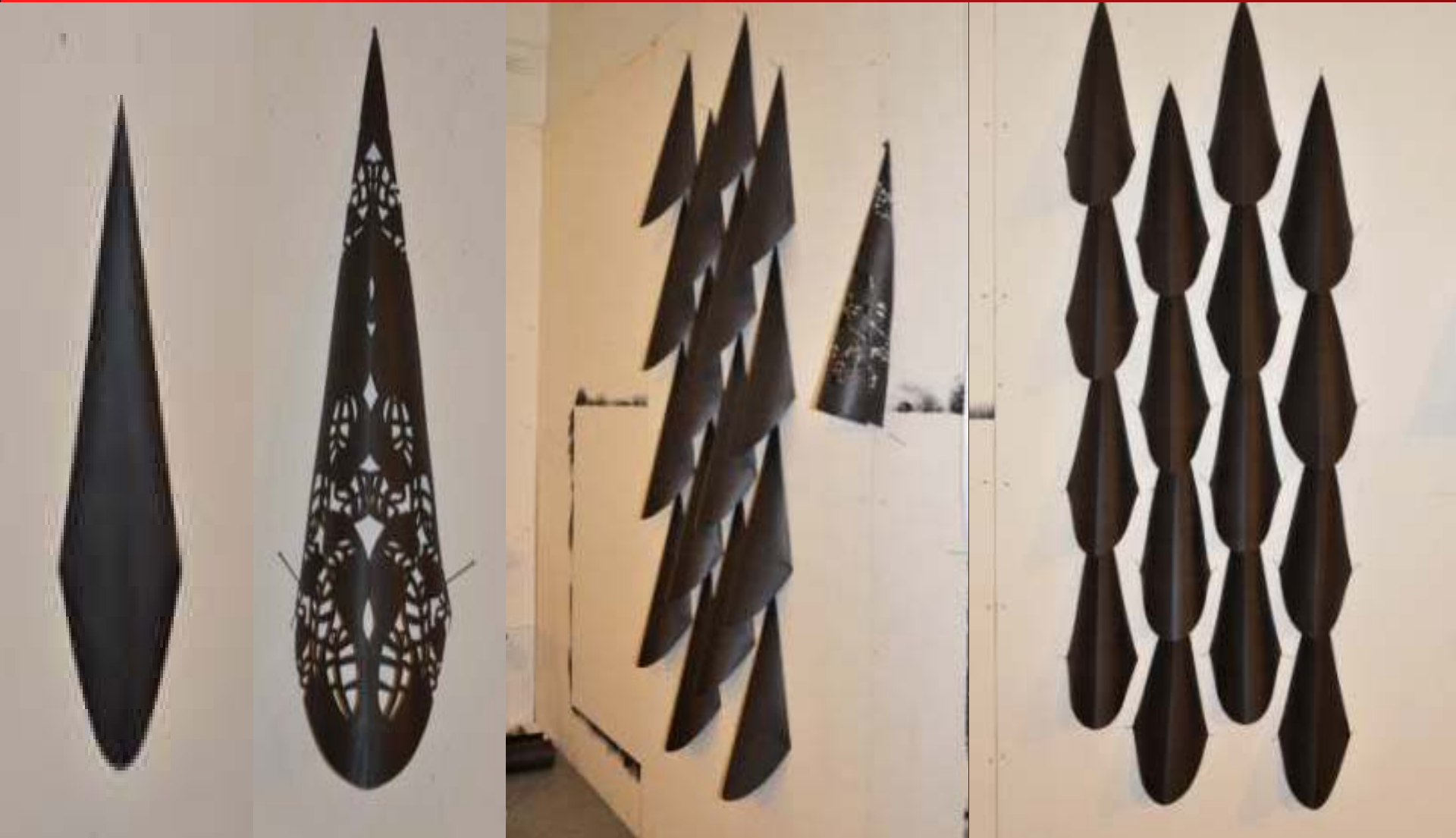
The large flightless kakapo with its striking green feathers and mysterious nocturnal habits held great cultural and spiritual value for Ngai Tahu. A kakapo feather cloak would only have been woven for a person of high status. The kakapo is now one of the rarest parrots in the world, saved from extinction only by an intensive programme of care and management.



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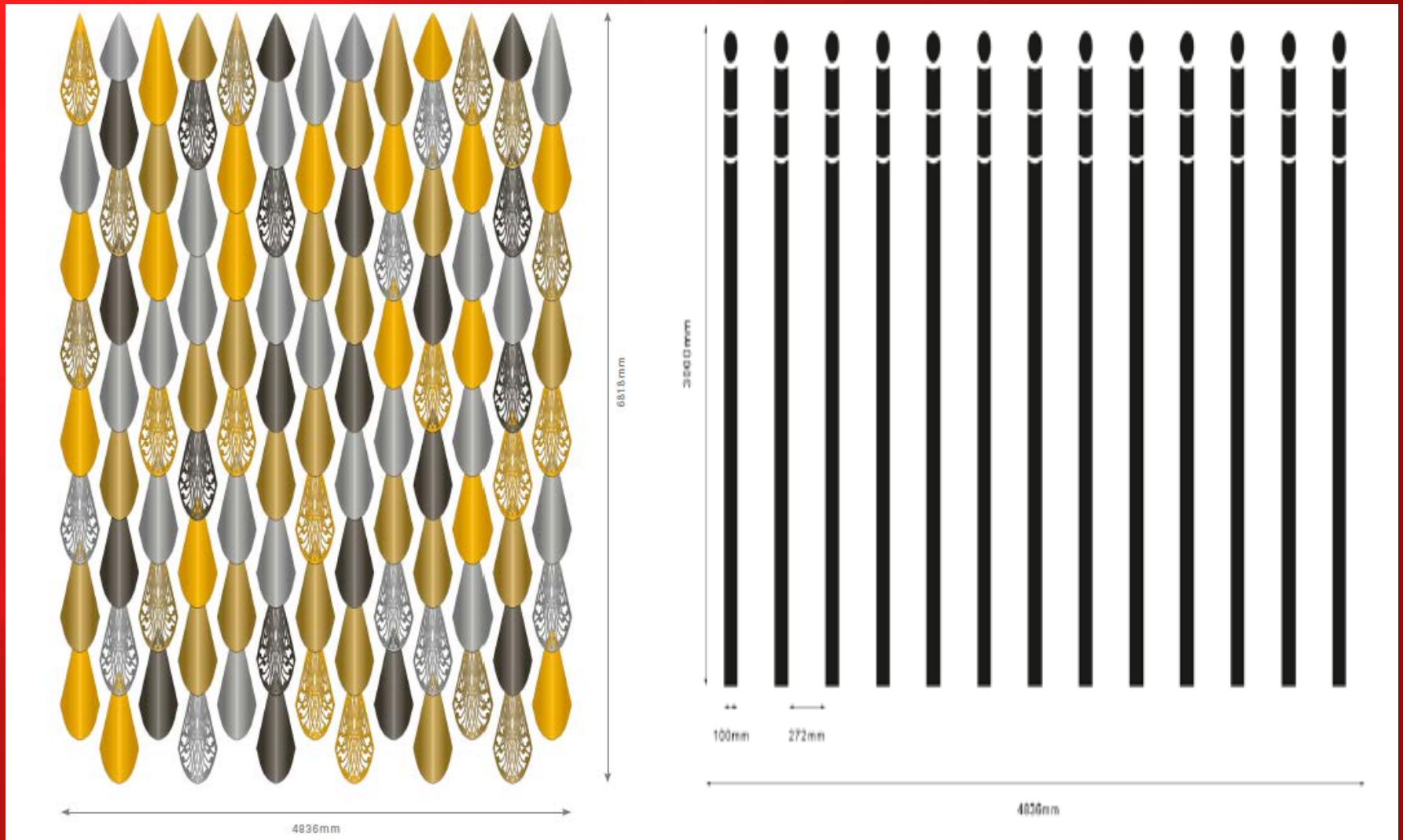
Concept Stage – Kakahu (Cloak)



Developed Design



Developed Design



Scale Mock-Up



Hukahuka Concrete Etch



Final Sample Stage



Developed Design



