

THE BRIEF

The destructive earthquake events of the last 18 months have left many upset in Christchurch, especially for those without the support of their wider family groups, leaving them feeling isolated in a strange land in uncertain times.

To assist residents with their recovery process, with a specific focus on the Pacific Island community, a tranquil and familiar space for them to have respite amidst the rubble is proposed.

BRIEF REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Incorporate the Pacific region's cultural, philosophical and spiritual traditions into the design
- 2 Re-locatable, relatively easy to deconstruct and re-assemble
- 3 Materials selected should be related to sustainability

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS



HEALTHY CHRISTCHURCH



Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



With 20,000 - 30,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean under 3 main groups (Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia), the Pacific Islands is a region of rich and diverse cultures.



Surrounded by the great expanse of the ocean, Pacific Islanders were sensational voyagers of the sea, travelling across the ocean with their double-hulled vessels capable of carrying huge families, planting materials and domesticated animals. They had also developed a highly sophisticated navigation system based on observing the stars and the swell patterns of the ocean.

Being very group-oriented, Pacific Islanders would share their property with the rest of the village, regardless of how much they might have. They see the village people as family.



As a largely oratory community, rhythm and music is a big part of the Pacific culture, and through these, beliefs and genealogies are passed down from generation to generation.



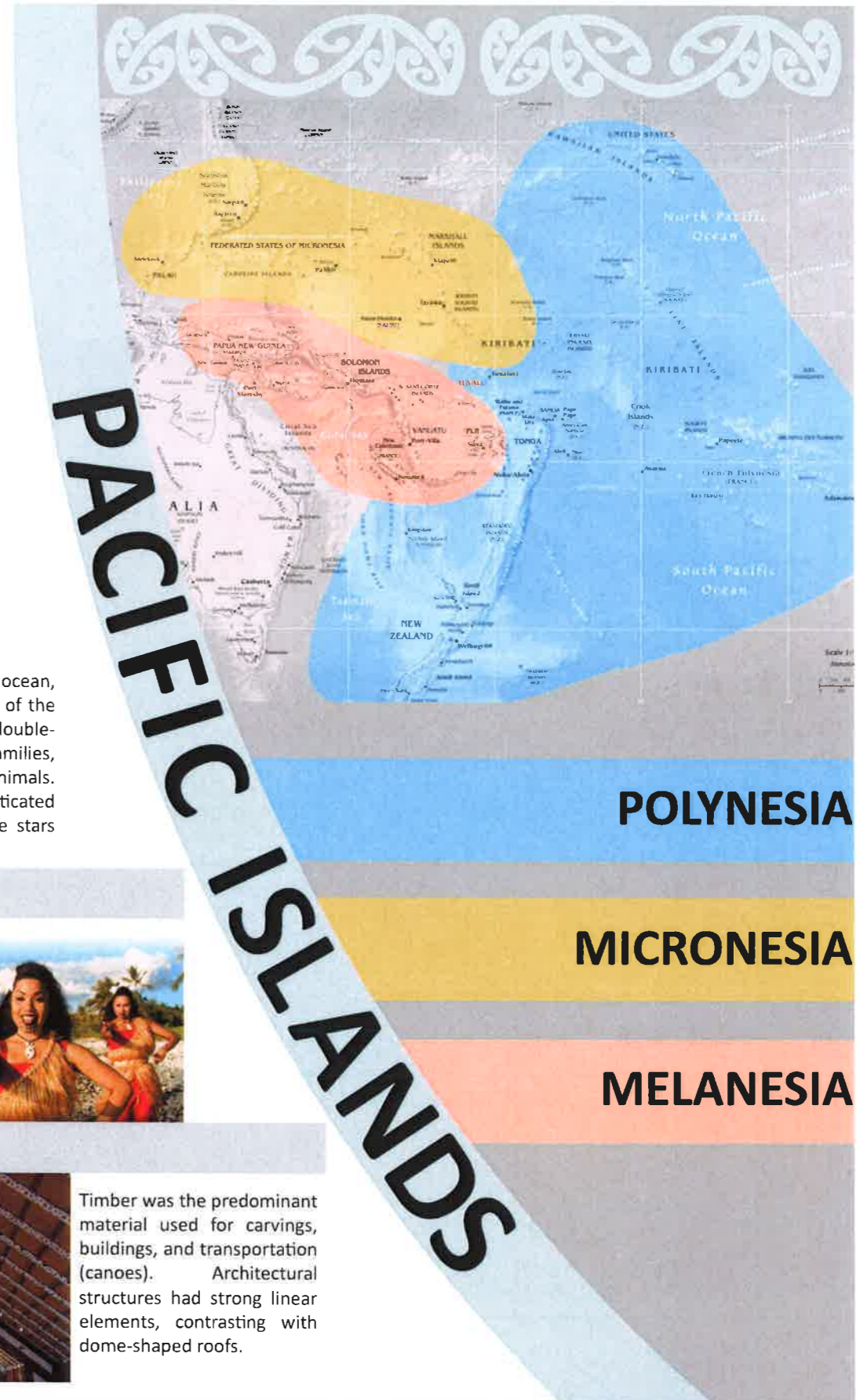
A dominant view of life was that the land, the people and the spiritual world harmonised as one. This belief is often expressed through circular or spiral shapes and symbols.



Stories of their many gods, although varying slightly in each tribe, were drawn from the same deep well of mythological past, called the "night of tradition".



Timber was the predominant material used for carvings, buildings, and transportation (canoes). Architectural structures had strong linear elements, contrasting with dome-shaped roofs.



PLACES OF TRANQUILITY

CaLD Community Competition

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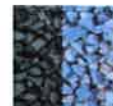


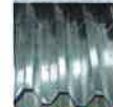
DESIGN DESCRIPTION

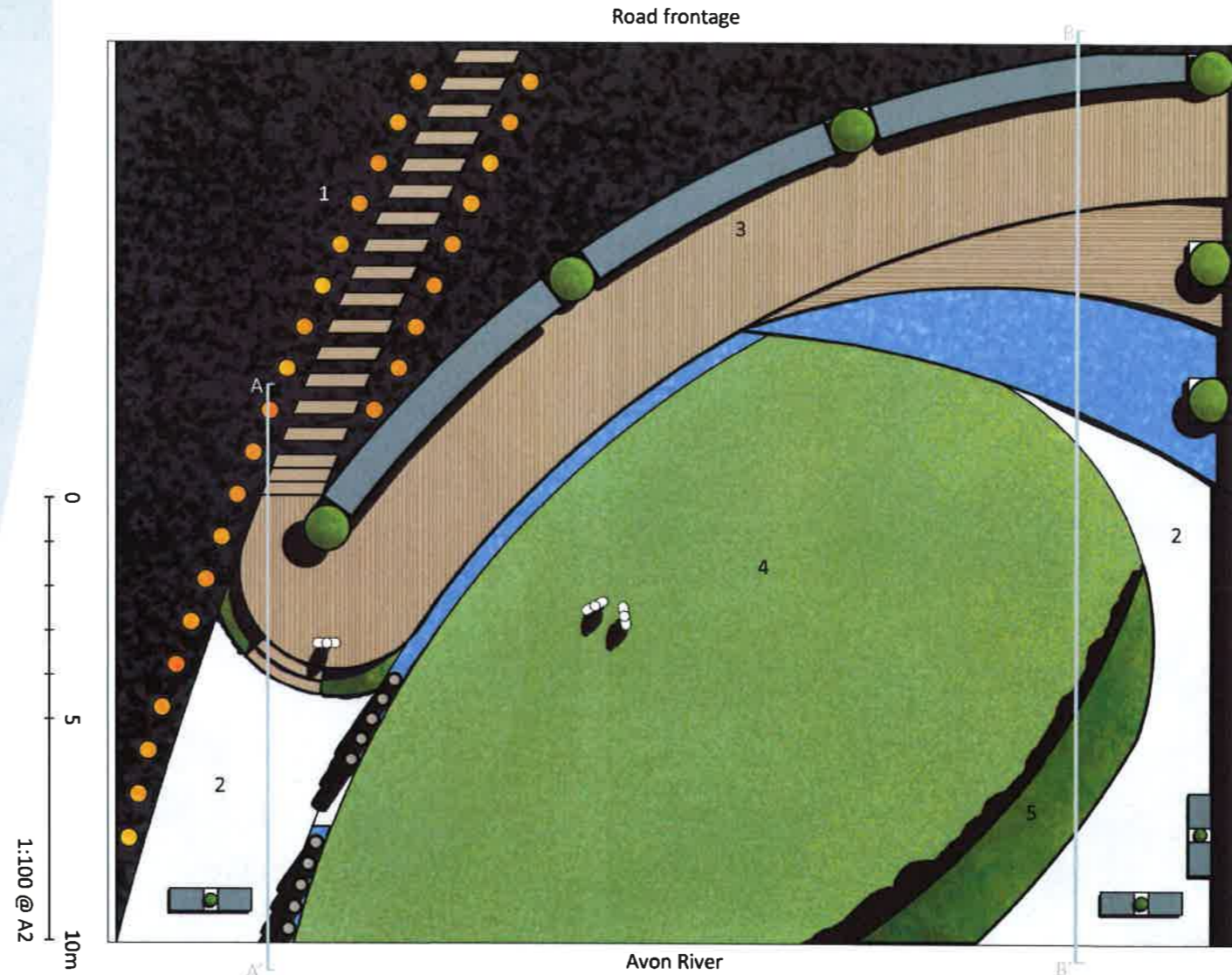
Inspired by the Pacific Islanders' use of stars to navigate their voyages, the entrance of the proposed design takes after the night sky; bright, orange plants (such as *Libertia peregrinans*) trace the outline of the narrow path, emulating how constellations provided direction in sea voyages. The alternating *crunch* and *stomp* sounds from treading on black-dyed gravel and solid wood respectively creates a subtle rhythmic beat, punctuated by differing pitches from stepping on different wooden planks, adding an interactive musicality aspect to the journey. This is further emphasised by the strong, recurring but varied visual rhythm through the lone-standing plants throughout the garden.



The narrow, restricted path then broadens, inducing a sense of liberation within. The spiral design embraces the idea that everything is one, evocative of the feeling of flow and harmony. The spiral circulation also stimulates a contemplative mood that encourages the unwinding of thoughts and negativity. This experience is heightened when crossing the blue-dyed gravel, metaphorical for the ocean, expressing the idea of leaving hardships and anything associated with negativity behind, and entering a lush lawn of serenity and new beginnings, framed by native planting and the Avon River.

The imagery of a voyage over dark and uncertain waters to reach an area of rest is also played in this design, with the end destination being the central part of the garden. The reverse direction also adds to this story; as one leaves the garden following the same path, it serves as a reminder that at the end of difficult and stressful circumstances, there will be another area of rest *beyond* the site, waiting to be discovered, allowing one to leave with refreshed and renewed hope.

MATERIALS

-  Gravel recycled from liquefaction sediments, dyed black to resemble the night sky, or blue to resemble the ocean.
-  Timber from demolished buildings to create paths, decks, poles and the large seats
-  Bricks from demolished buildings in gabion as a base for the smaller seats
-  Ivory lime chip (0-7mm) from Canterbury foothills as paving for the more private pockets in garden
-  Aluminium scrap metal sheets from demolished buildings as shelter for the large seats
-  *Libertia peregrinans* to dot entrance/exit path



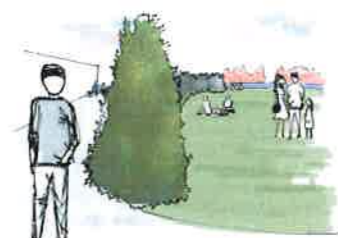
- 1 Rhythm created in entrance to help ease the mind. Different pitches could be created by varying the depth below each wooden plank

- 2 Private and more enclosed areas to cater to individuals or small groups of 2-3, defined by planting and changes in levels. Fine white lime chips contrasts with black-dyed gravel from the entrance in terms of size, colour, and sound produced when stepped on, adding a subtle layer of calmness to these private spaces
- 3 Large seats, inspired by the shape of hulls of canoes, to cater to bigger groups

- 4 As Pacific islanders are very group-oriented, large open spaces are available for them to sit and relax together
- 5 Native plants to be used throughout the design



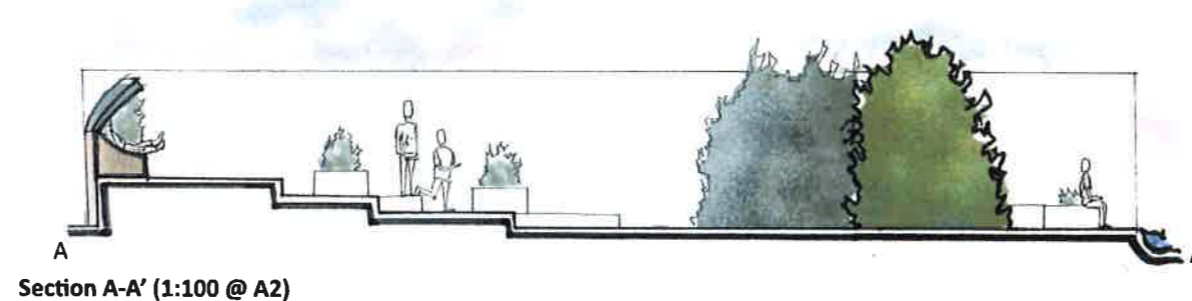
Intended ambience when entering garden



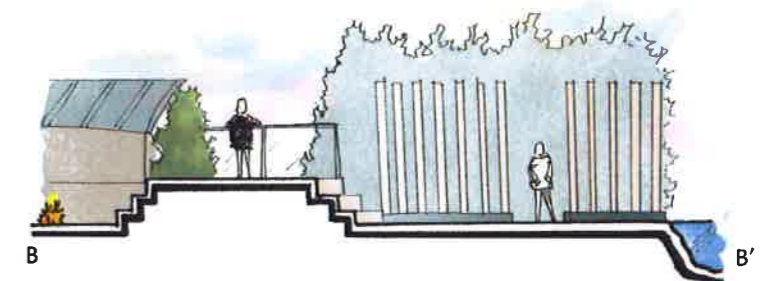
A more private area inspired by traditional architecture from Pacific region



Design caters for a more social space, as well as more enclosed spaces.



Section A-A' (1:100 @ A2)



Section B-B' (1:100 @ A2)

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