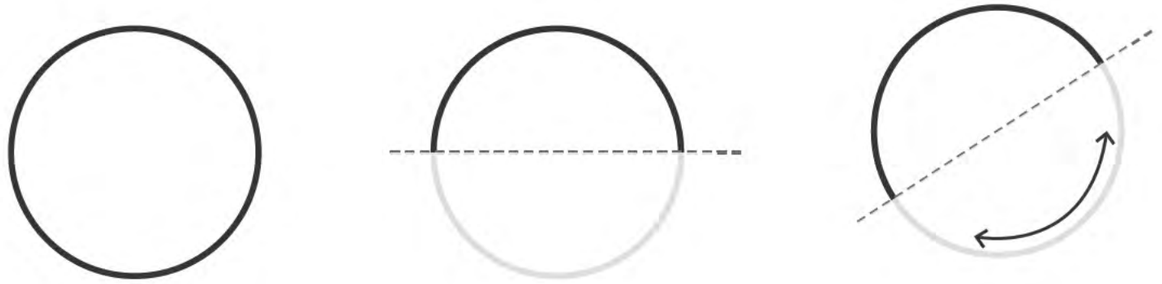
04

Facade

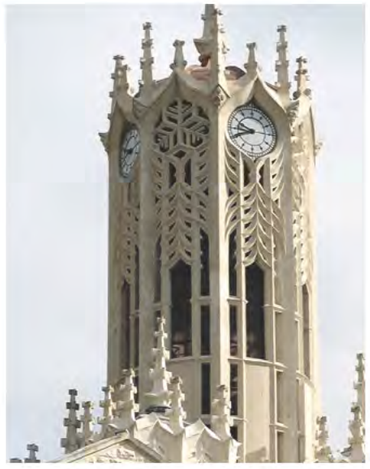
4.0 Facade
Architectural Expression

The façade expression draws on the project's central motif of the circle, inspired by the intricate filigree detailing of the clocktower and reinterpreted through a contemporary architectural language.

A longstanding symbol of knowledge, discovery, and collective exchange, the circle is expressed within the facade as a scalloped geometry within a perforated screen. This creates a subtle connection between the façade and the spatial experience within the interior of the building, while wrapping the upper volume with a cohesive and distinct identity.







Waipapa Taumata Rau - University of Auckland, Architects: R.A. Lippincott

The Clock Tower

The Clocktower is renowned for its intricate Gothic detailing, rich materiality, and finely articulated façades. Layers of ornamentation, deep relief, and strong vertical proportions create a distinctive architectural character and a prominent civic landmark within the campus.



Kauri Timber Building, Architects: Fearon Hay

Perforated Metal Screen

A series of fluted, perforated metal screens are rolled into interconnected arcs, creating a protective and visually dynamic façade.



Digit-Tech Factory, Architects: Coffey Architects

Architectural Screen

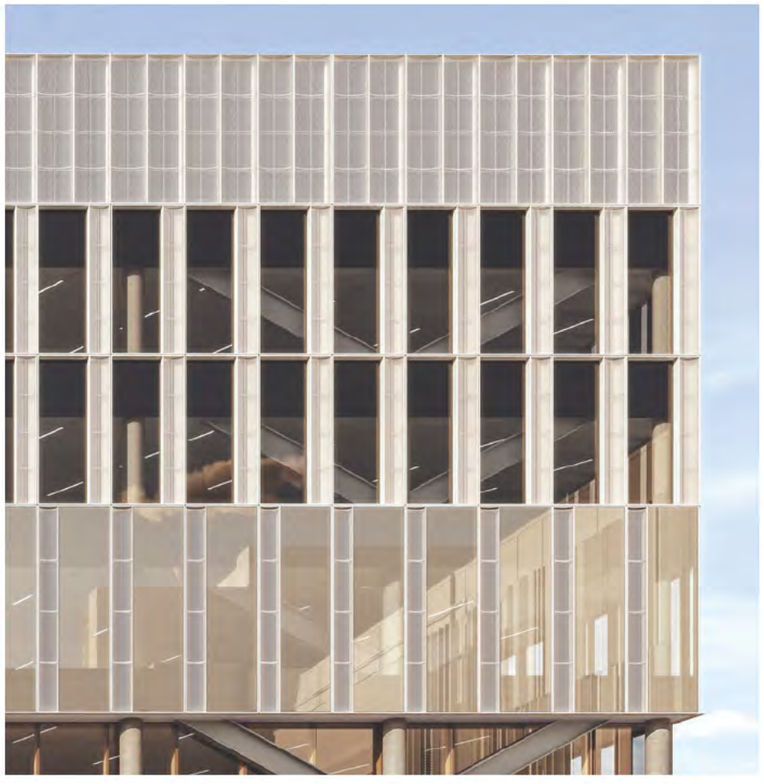
An external screening system has been explored to modulate light, provide visual filtering, and create a balanced relationship between transparency, outlook, and solar control.

4.0 Facade
Architectural Expression



Princes St Facade - 'The Veil'

The Princes Street façade comprises a unitised glazed façade system with low-E IGUs and external curved aluminium perforated screening suspended from an integrated gantry structure. Conceived as a contemporary veil, the façade mediates between the building and the public realm, softening the scale of the envelope while adding depth, texture, and rhythm. The interplay of solid and permeable elements creates a dynamic expression that shifts with changing light conditions, balancing outward views, daylight penetration, and solar control.



Upper Facades

The upper façades comprise a unitised glazed façade system with low-E IGUs, perimeter aluminium framing to each panel, and full-height curved perforated screens with integrated backpans. Together, these elements create a layered façade composition that introduces depth, shadow, and visual richness across the building envelope. The scalloped perforations enrich this effect, casting varying patterns of light and shadow that animate the façade and create a dynamic expression that changes throughout the day



Podium

The podium is expressed as a grounded, tectonic element that anchors the building and reinforces its civic presence. Rich materiality, pronounced depth, and a carefully modulated façade composition create a robust and tactile architectural character. The interplay of texture, shadow, and solid form establishes a strong visual foundation, enhancing the building's connection to the public realm while providing a complementary counterpoint to the lighter veil-like expression above.

4.0 Facade
Architectural Expression

Further opportunities exist to embed culturally informed patterning within the perforated mesh, creating a layered expression of narrative, identity, and place across the building envelope. This will be developed within the next stage of design.







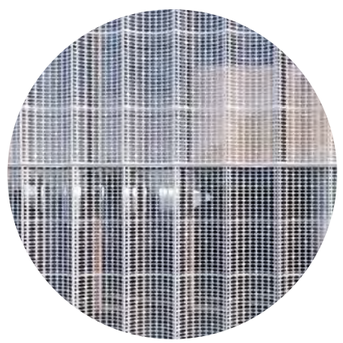
01

Current Facade



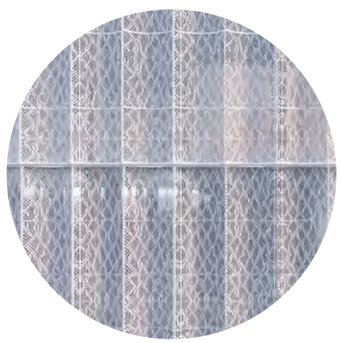
02

Density of perforations



03

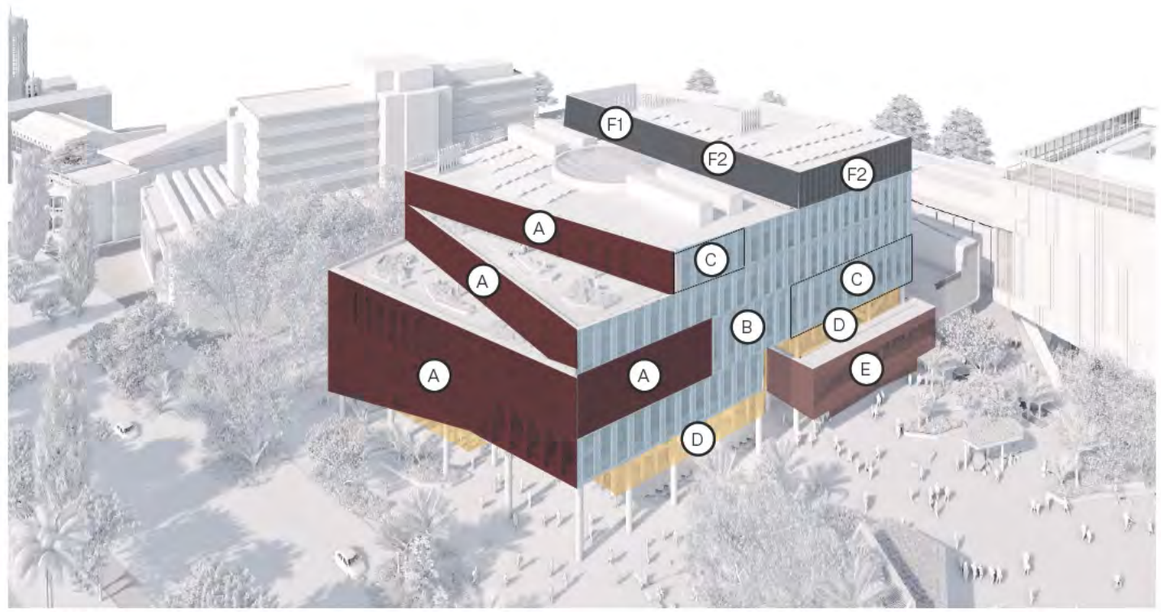
Patterning of perforations



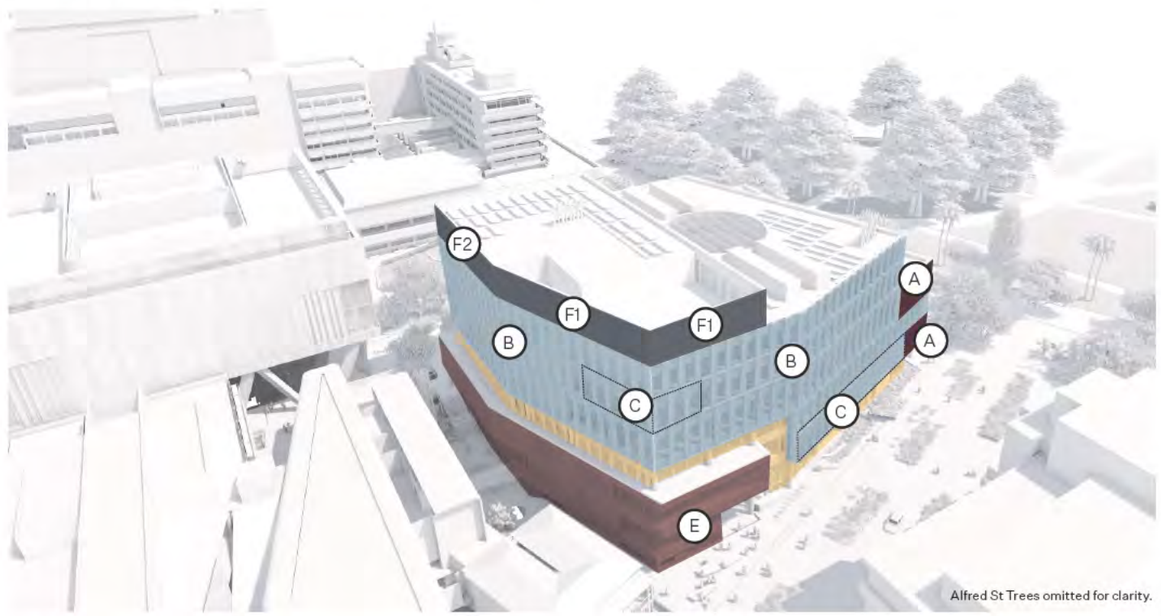
4.0 Facade
Facade Types

A high-level solar analysis was undertaken to assess the solar exposure of each façade. The study indicates that the Princes Street façade experiences the highest solar exposure, along with the upper portion of the Alfred Street façade.

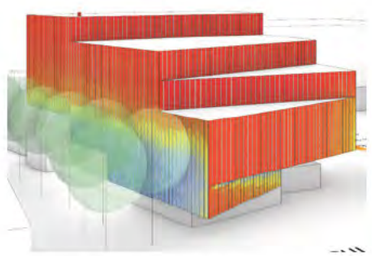
Based on these findings, external shading has been provided to the Princes St façade, where it will provide the greatest benefit. The remaining façades incorporate curtain wall glazing, perimeter external aluminium framing, curved perforated sections with backpan, and a ceramic frit treatment to maintain a cohesive architectural expression.



South-West Axonometric

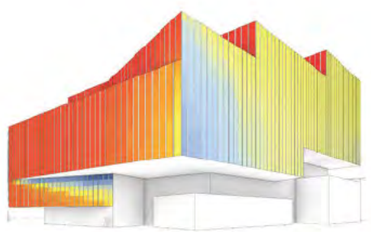


North-East Axonometric



North-West Corner

The north-west corner of the building experiences the highest levels of solar exposure, informing the targeted shading strategy in this area.



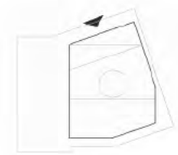
South-West Corner

The south-west façade experiences relatively moderate solar exposure, with ceramic frit glazing providing an appropriate level of solar control.

kWh/m²
995.98
896.38
796.78
697.18
597.59
497.99
398.39
298.79
199.20
99.60
0.00

4.0 Facade
West Elevation



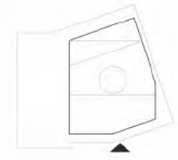


- Boundary
- Height Control
- Frontage Control

A	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU, with external aluminium curved perforated screening over an integrated gantry. Powdercoat finish.
B	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU with perimeter external aluminium frame to each panel & full height curved perforated section with backpan. Powdercoat aluminium. Backpans to selected areas.
C	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU with ceramic frit and recessed full height curved perforated section with backpan. Powdercoat aluminium.
D	Clear IGUs, low-e with stainless steel structural mullions and full height timber reveals internally.
E	GRC or stone rain screen with integrated curved feature & clear glazing
F1	Curved perforated aluminium plant screen. Powdercoat finish.
F2	Rainscreen with integrated aluminium louvres and curved perforated aluminium screen.
G	Glass balustrade

4.0 Facade
East Elevation





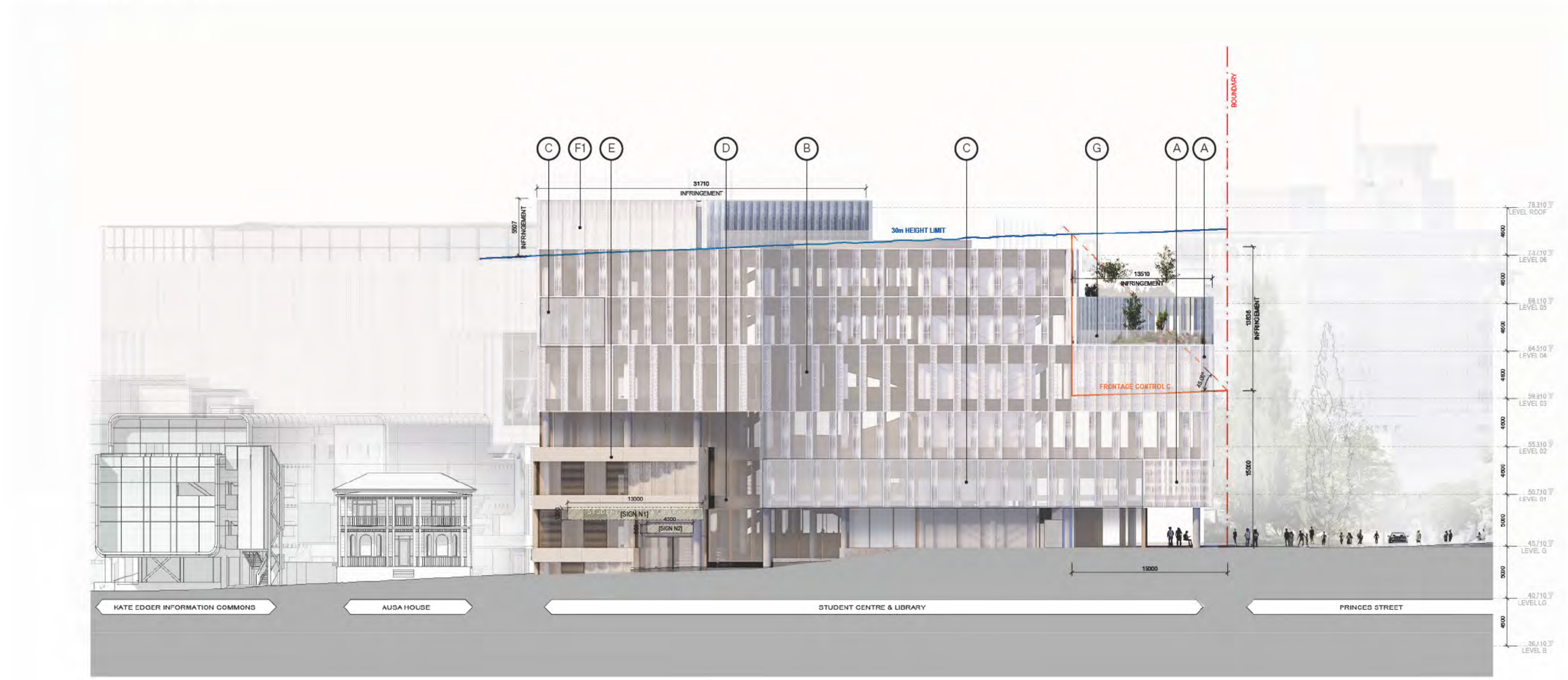
Boundary

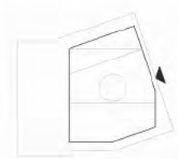
Height Control

Frontage Control

- **A** Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU, with external aluminium curved perforated screening over an integrated gantry. Powdercoat finish.
- **B** Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU with perimeter external aluminium frame to each panel & full height curved perforated section with backpan. Powdercoat aluminium. Backpans to selected areas.
- **C** Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU with ceramic frit and recessed full height curved perforated section with backpan. Powdercoat aluminium.
- **D** Clear IGUs, low-e with stainless steel structural mullions and full height timber reveals internally.
- **E** GRC or stone rain screen with integrated curved feature & clear glazing
- **F1** Curved perforated aluminium plant screen. Powdercoat finish.
- **F2** Rainscreen with integrated aluminium louvres and curved perforated aluminium screen.
- **G** Glass balustrade

4.0 Facade
North Elevation



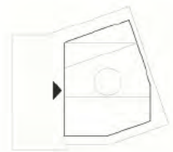


- Boundary
- Height Control
- Frontage Control

A	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU, with external aluminium curved perforated screening over an integrated gantry. Powdercoat finish.
B	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU with perimeter external aluminium frame to each panel & full height curved perforated section with backpan. Powdercoat aluminium. Backpans to selected areas.
C	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU with ceramic frit and recessed full height curved perforated section with backpan. Powdercoat aluminium.
D	Clear IGUs, low-e with stainless steel structural mullions and full height timber reveals internally.
E	GRC or stone rain screen with integrated curved feature & clear glazing
F1	Curved perforated aluminium plant screen. Powdercoat finish.
F2	Rainscreen with integrated aluminium louvres and curved perforated aluminium screen.
G	Glass balustrade

4.0 Facade
South Elevation

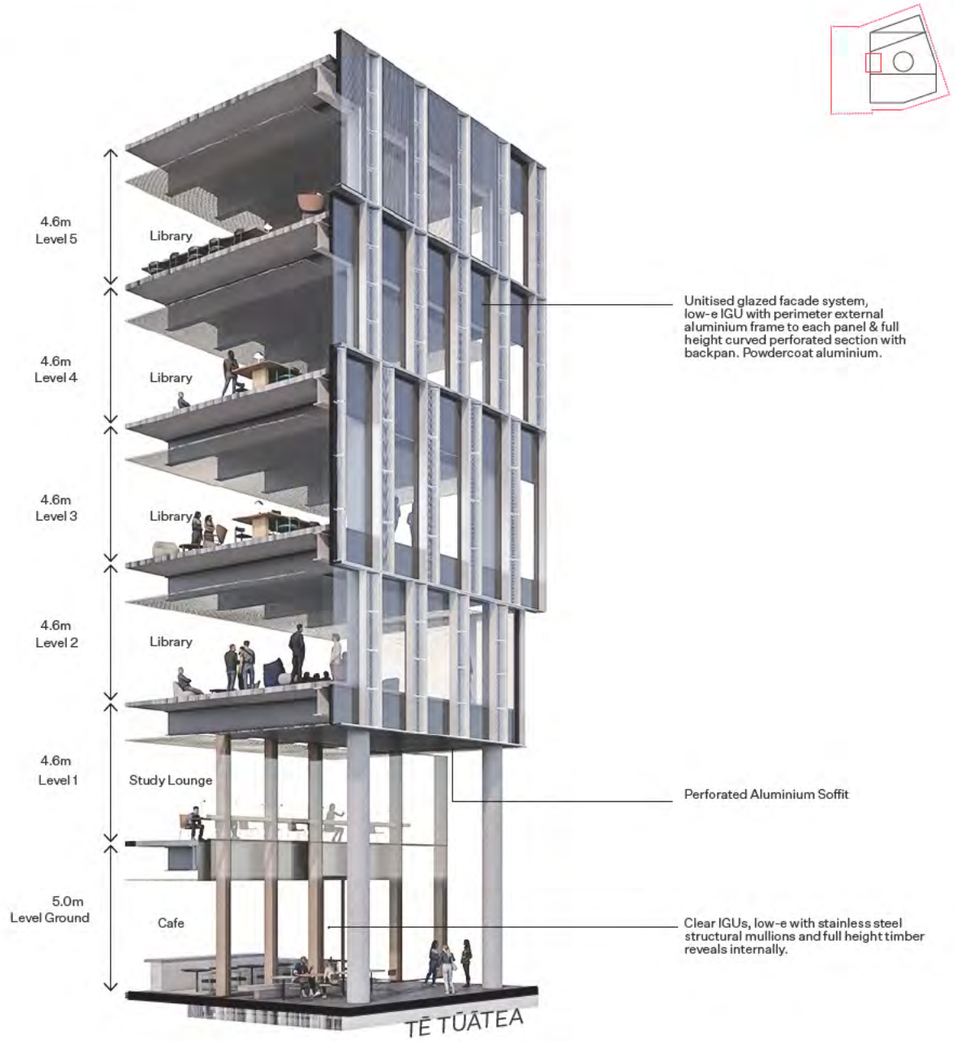


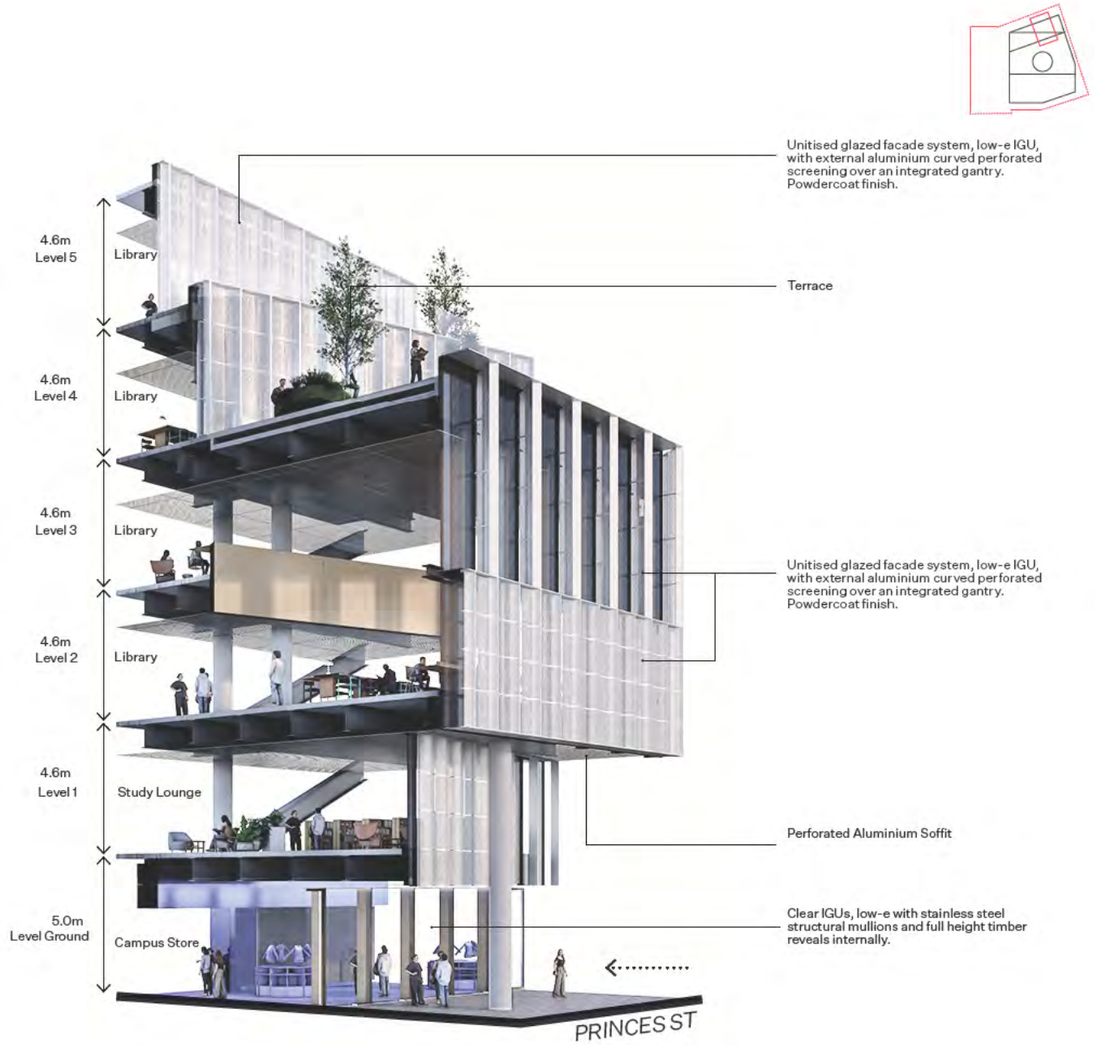


- Boundary
- Height Control
- Frontage Control

A	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU, with external aluminium curved perforated screening over an integrated gantry. Powdercoat finish.
B	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU with perimeter external aluminium frame to each panel & full height curved perforated section with backpan. Powdercoat aluminium. Backpans to selected areas.
C	Unitised glazed facade system, low-e IGU with ceramic frit and recessed full height curved perforated section with backpan. Powdercoat aluminium.
D	Clear IGUs, low-e with stainless steel structural mullions and full height timber reveals internally.
E	GRC or stone rain screen with integrated curved feature & clear glazing
F1	Curved perforated aluminium plant screen. Powdercoat finish.
F2	Rainscreen with integrated aluminium louvres and curved perforated aluminium screen.
G	Glass balustrade

4.0 Facade
Upper Form





Tē Tūātea Frontage

Ground & Level 1, a double-height unitised curtain wall system features natural timber reveals, extending an inviting entry and adding tactile warmth for visitors arriving from the adjacent Tē tūātea.

The upper Facade is designed as a refined, performance-driven envelope that balances solar control with visual depth using scalloped perforated aluminium section with backpan.


Forum Zofingen, Switzerland by FFBK


New York Library by Andrew Berman Architect

Princes St Frontage

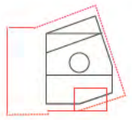
Facing Princes St and Albert Park, the façade employs powder-coated perforated aluminium mesh screens to filter harsh western sunlight into soft, dappled light.

This ethereal veil provides delicate natural light control, protecting internal study spaces from glare and solar heat gain. Simultaneously, it preserves visual transparency and a connection to Albert Park's lush canopy, balancing privacy and openness.

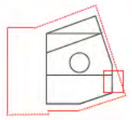

Bocconi University by SANAA


Norwich City College by Coffey Architects

4.0 Facade
Podium









Laneway Facade

Grounded by a solid, tactile podium and robust plinth, the building embraces the narrative of raw materiality. This textured enclosure frames the servicing laneway, creating a durable civic presence that anchors the architecture while inviting movement, making, and creative activity directly into the physical, everyday fabric of the street.



YSL Flagship Store, Toronto

Alfred St Frontage

The podium facade adopts the same material palette as the ground paving, creating a seamless transition between landscape and architecture, as though the building emerges naturally from the earth. Integrated aluminium screens filter sunlight and provide privacy while adding depth and texture to the facade.



Marshgate UCL East Building, London by Stanton Williams

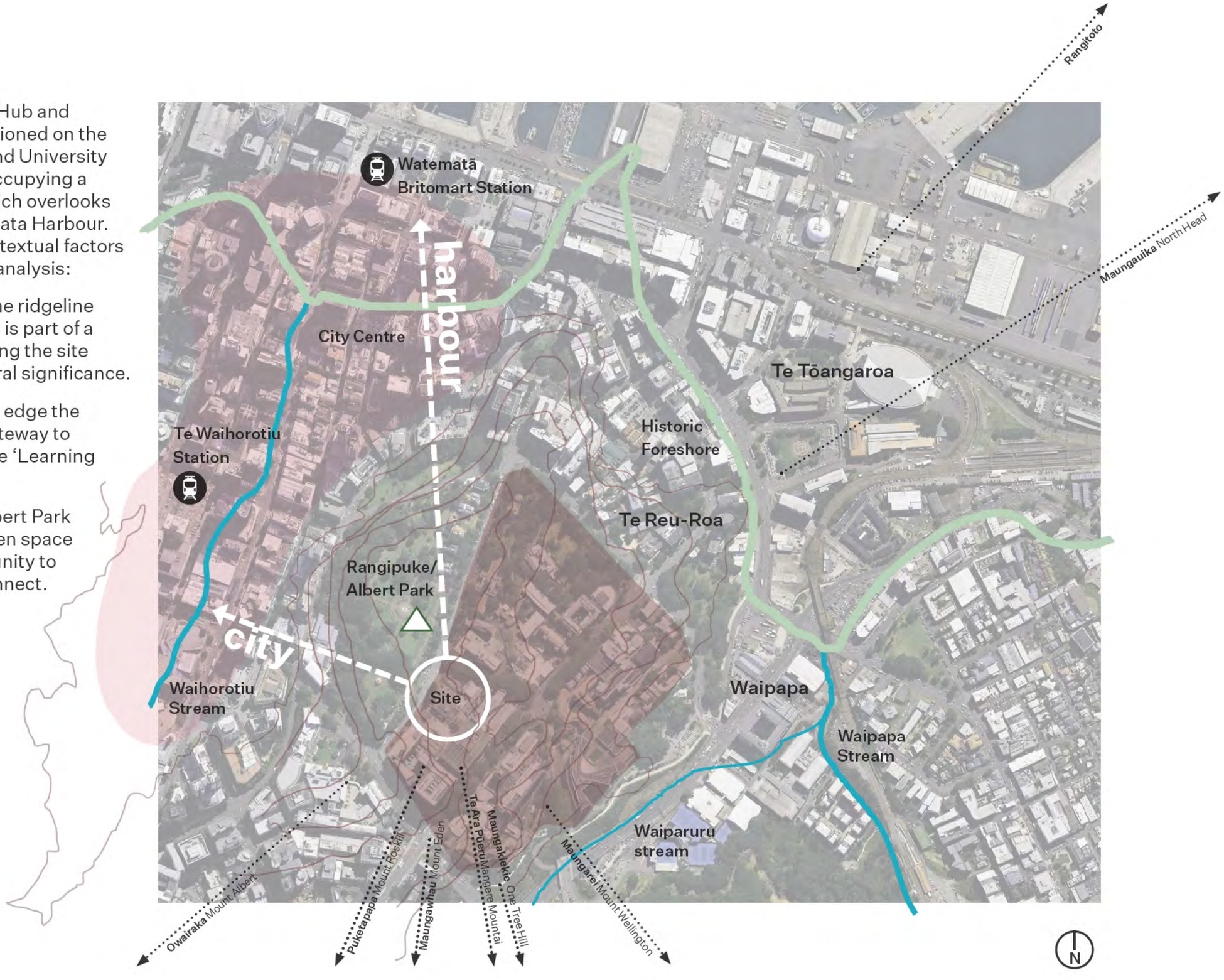
05

Landscape

5.0 Site Context
Analysis

The proposed Student Hub and Library building is positioned on the city edge of the Auckland University City Centre Campus. Occupying a prominent ridgeline which overlooks the city and the Waitemata Harbour. There are three key contextual factors picked up through this analysis:

1. The topography of the ridgeline which the site sits on is part of a historic volcano, giving the site geological and cultural significance.
2. Located on the city's edge the proposed site is a gateway to the university and the 'Learning Quarter'.
3. The adjacency to Albert Park provides existing open space amenity and opportunity to complement and connect.



5.0 Site Context
Existing Spaces

The existing open space is currently divided between two spaces: the RWC Plaza and The Student Quad. As part of the Student Union and Library development, these areas will be combined to create a single, larger plaza capable of hosting student gatherings, events and everyday campus life activity.



5.0 Space Typologies
Design Response

Through analysis of university campus landscape five key spatial typologies have been identified. These are useful for considering the potential programming of the landscape and benchmarking proposed design moves against precedents.

Collaborative & Concentrated Space

Sheltered and contained, with varying sizes to accommodate small groups and individuals, seating options, and supporting infrastructure. An integral blend of private space for concentrated study and public space for collaborative exchanges.

Learning and social activity. Porous edges to adjoining areas and movement routes.



Passive Open Space

Open areas programmed for passive activity or recreation. Typically soft, with decking or lawn as the dominant feature. Provides occupiable edges or features, offering choices of dwelling opportunities and multiple outlooks, preferably overlooking activity spaces.



Active Open Space

Open or contained areas programmed for more active use that fosters social interaction and serves as an activator to the wider open space. Half courts, table tennis, table football are examples commonly used as anchors.



Flexible Gathering & Event Space

Open, hard-surfaced ‘plaza space’ serving as a meeting point and connecting to multiple other areas and/or built uses. Typically at the intersection of key movement routes or significant entry points. Cross-programmed spaces with porous borders, overlapping functions, and unusual juxtapositions support open areas, promote inclusivity, and greater participation.



Green Regenerative Areas

Collectively significant areas of vegetation provide comfort, shelter, and definition of occupiable open spaces, and movement routes, whilst fostering habitat opportunities for flora and fauna. These areas serve to support the restorative qualities of campus open space - retreat, fascination, and exposure to nature.

5.0 Key Moves
Design Response



ROOF TERRACES

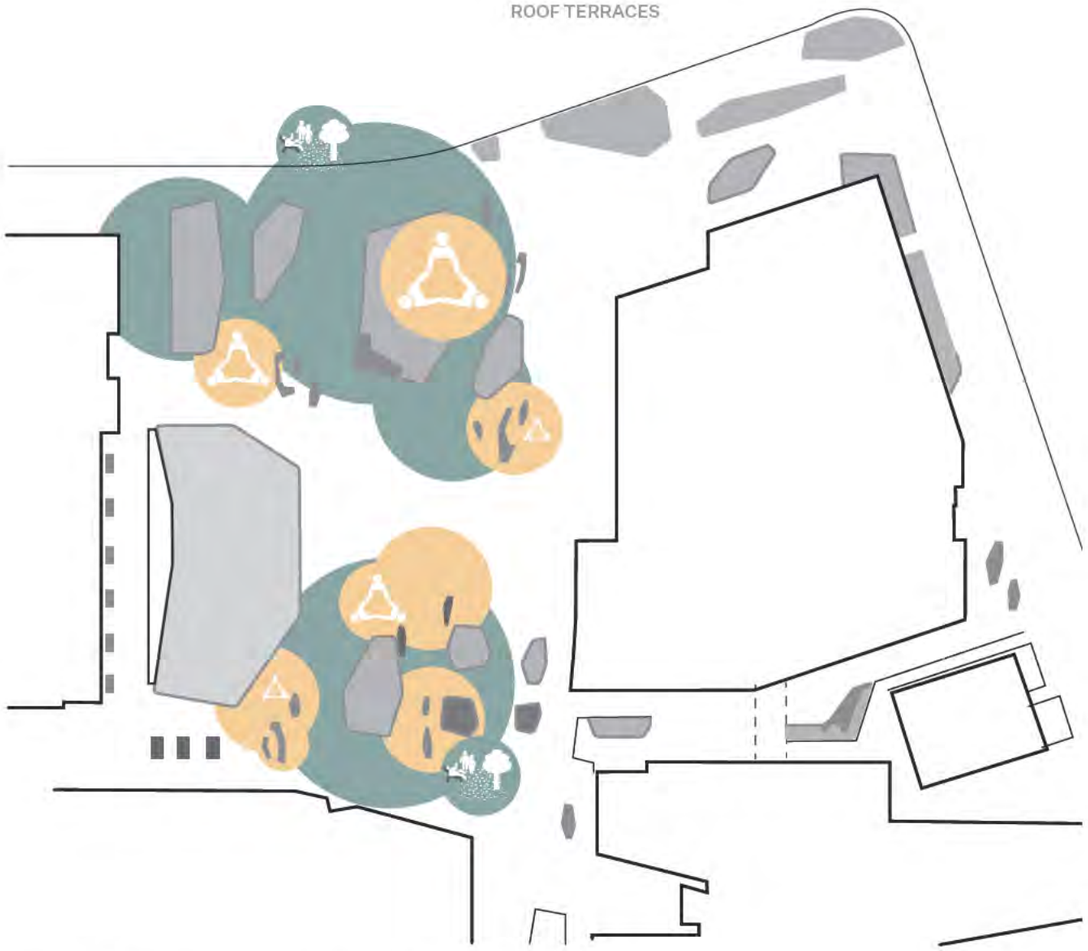


Gathering, Event and Regenerative Spaces

Anchoring points of connection and entry, framed by areas of vegetation, a series of connected open spaces offer an opportunity for large groups and events to inhabit Tē Tūātea / Plaza and activate its heart. With good opportunities for gathering at the edges and an outlook from the mound, the central area offers a large gathering area for significant events, with a screen structure further supporting this use.



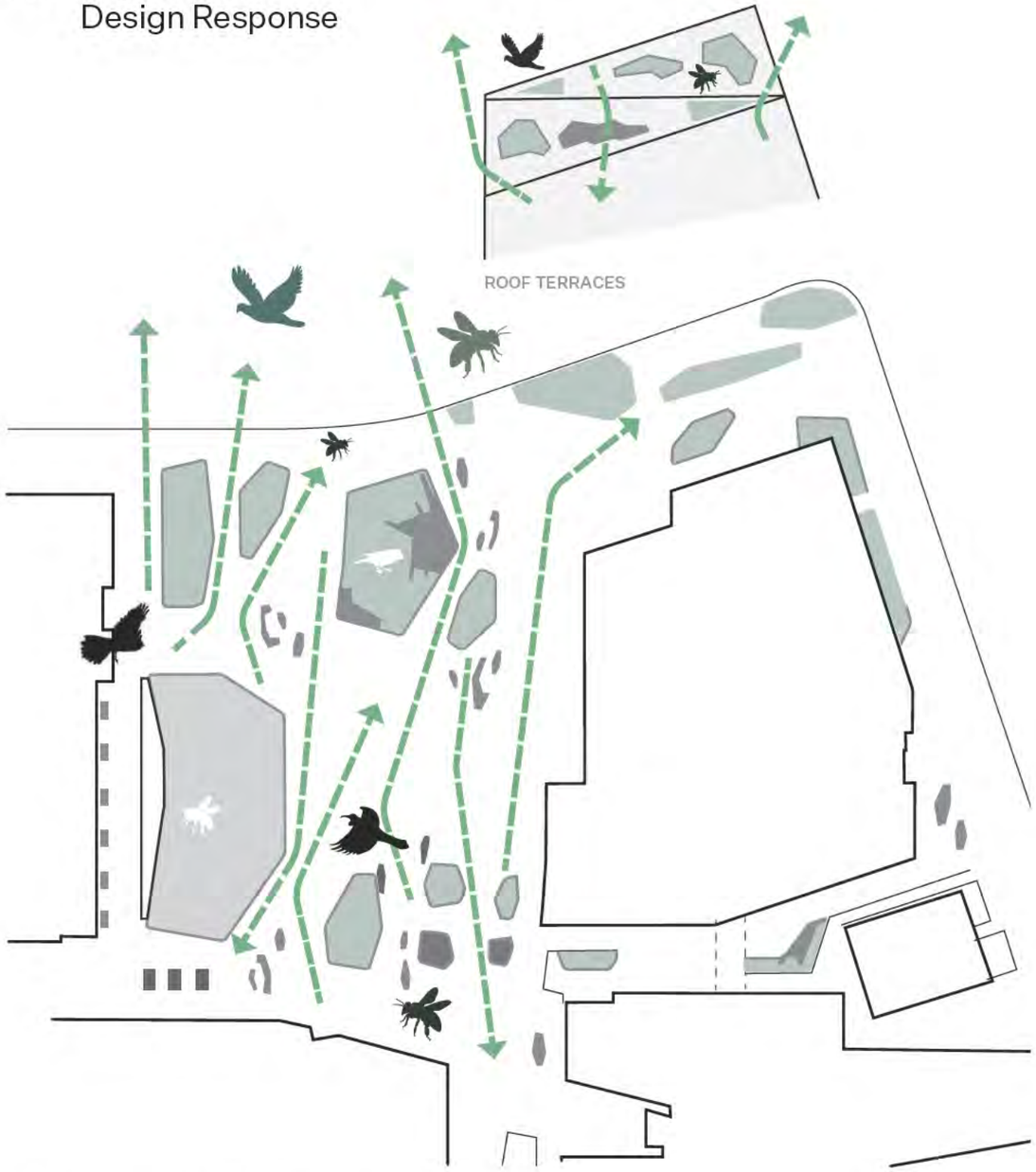
ROOF TERRACES



Collaborative & Passive Spaces

Located around and between areas of vegetation, more intimately scaled passive areas of Tē Tūātea / Plaza with seating edges and flexible furniture provide the ability for students to shape collaborative and concentrated nodes within the plaza.

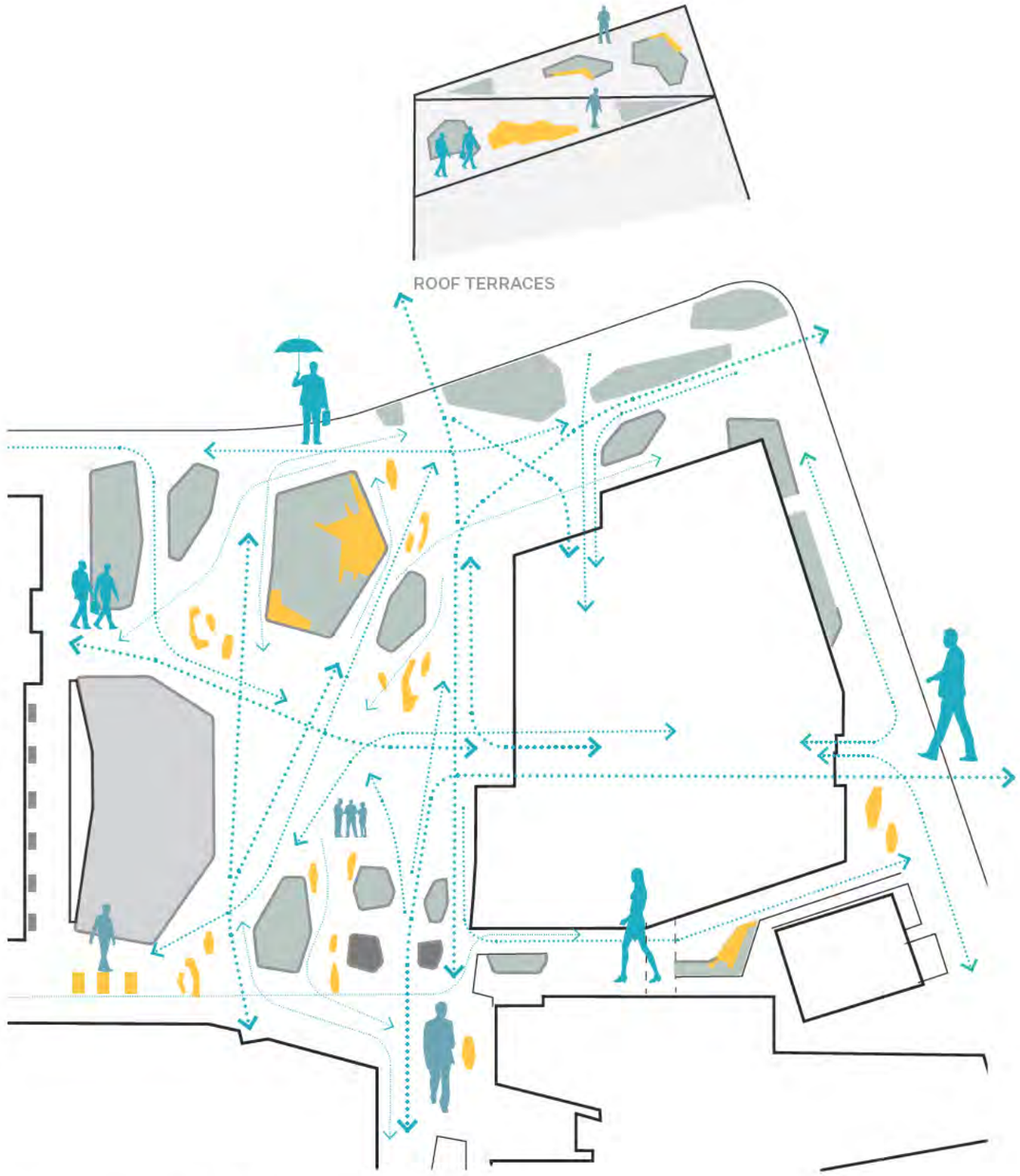
5.0 Key Moves
Design Response



Connections to Nature

One of the key desires of the project is strengthening connections to Albert Park and allowing students and staff to connect to nature. Using large planters with occupiable edges allows for significant planting whilst also creating a series of open gathering spaces and smaller sheltered sub spaces to the edges. The network of planters works with and reinforces connections through Tē Tūātea / Plaza and with Albert Park to the north. Whilst planting on the terraces creates a green outlook from internal spaces and an outdoor space to connect with nature.

Te Mauri o Te Taiao The Essence of The Natural World

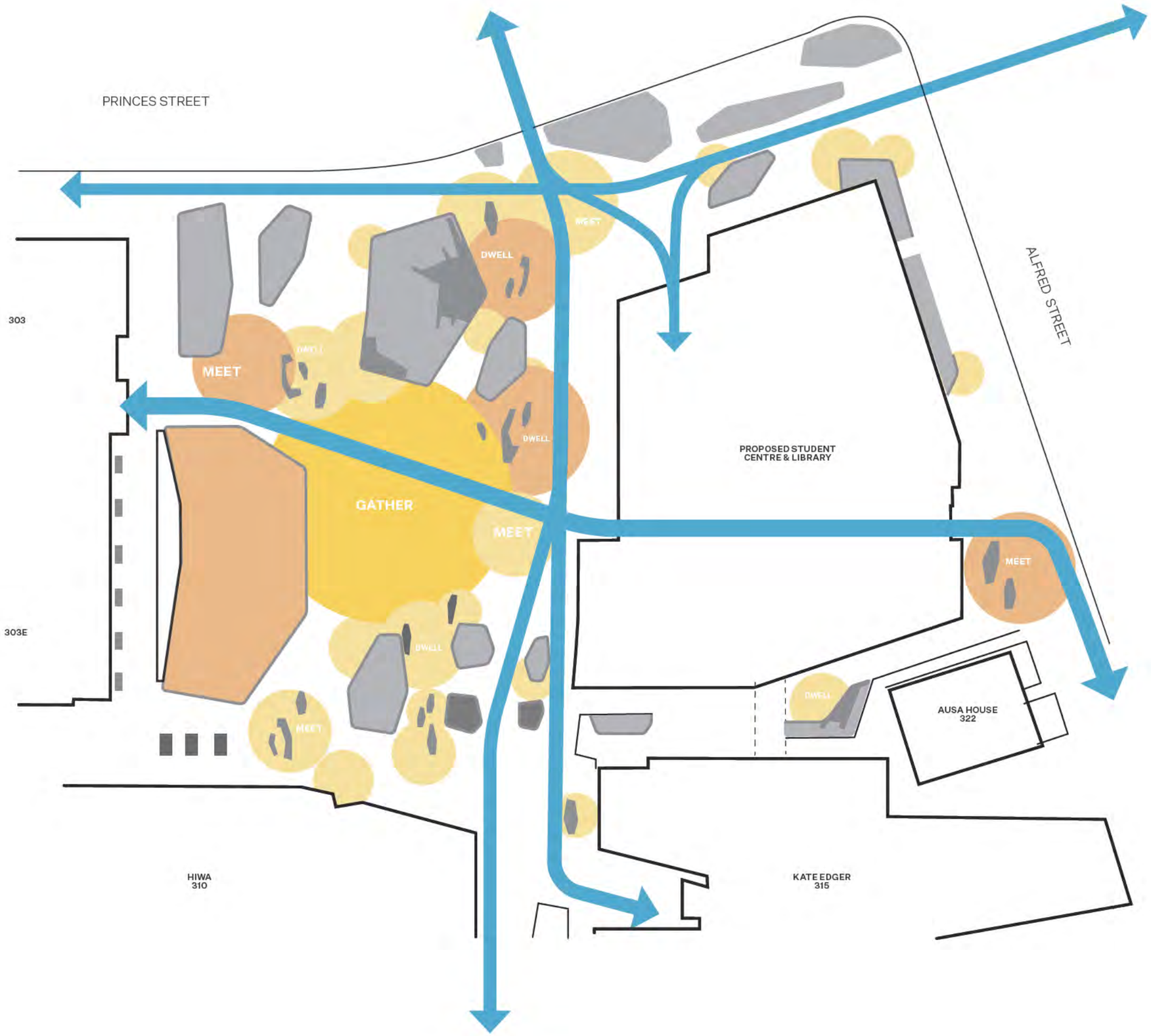


Connecting People

Providing a range of sheltered opportunities to pause alongside movement routes and gathering spaces will support activation of the space, opportunities for impromptu engagement, whilst offering spaces for individuals and groups to spend time and connect in a safe and inclusive environment.

Te Mauri o Te Tangata The Essence of People

5.0 Movement & Pause
Design Response



5.0 Conceptual Narratives
Design Response

Lava flow from the historic cone of Rangipuke, which sat at the location of what is now Albert Park and the City Campus, would have shaped ecologies along the face of the landscape for years following, with basalt rock forming pathways and edges, and forest planting filling the gaps. Further from the cone, these ‘gaps’ would be more frequent and more planting established as the momentum of lava reduced.

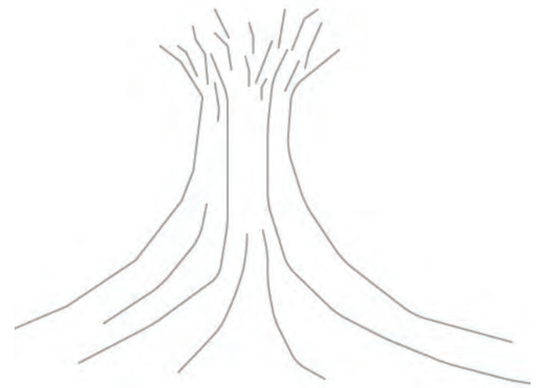
The existing plaza has established a narrative of the crater’s edge, and therefore flowing outwards from this there are larger and more frequent pockets of established vegetation.

Eruptions create opportunity for regeneration; they also generate and bring energy to the space. This eruption is explored in different elements of the landscape, from the vegetation strategy through to the planter and furniture forms.



Crater

Flow



Regeneration

Tē Tūātea / Plaza

5.0 Concept Plan - Ground Floor
Tē Tūātea / Plaza

5m 10m 30m
1:500 @ A3



01	Existing mound
02	Upgraded pedestrian crossing and kerb alignments - indicative of future potential only
03	Structure holding outdoor screen
04	Terraced seating within planting
05	Entrance feature opportunity & signage
06	Seating elements (wall seats with backrests)
07	Stair and laneway access to Alfred Street
08	Moveable timber seating elements
09	Lightwell with balustrade to laneway below
10	Building entrance
11	Indicative channel drain connecting to planter for passive irrigation/SW management
12	Vehicle PUDO - indicative of future potential only
13	Existing Alfred Street planters
14	Cycle parking - Nom. 16 new spaces on site
15	Transformer location
16	BESS Location with fin style screen to surround
17	Existing seating elements
18	Litter and recycling bin
19	Retractable bollards
20	Existing Poplars removed
21	Fresh water drinking fountain
	Extent of physical landscape works included in FTAA submission

5.0 Concept Plan - Ground Floor Existing Overlay
Tē Tūātea / Plaza

5m 10m 30m

1:500 @ A3



01	Existing Student Union building
02	Existing Student Quad
03	Existing planter
04	Existing Poplar trees within Princes Street to be removed
05	Existing kerb alignment
06	Existing Princes Street crossing
07	Existing planters to Alfred Street
08	Existing lightwell
09	Existing seating to be retained
10	Existing mound to be retained
	Extent of physical landscape works included in FTAA submission

5.0 Activation Layers
Tē Tūātea / Plaza



Planters / Fixed Elements



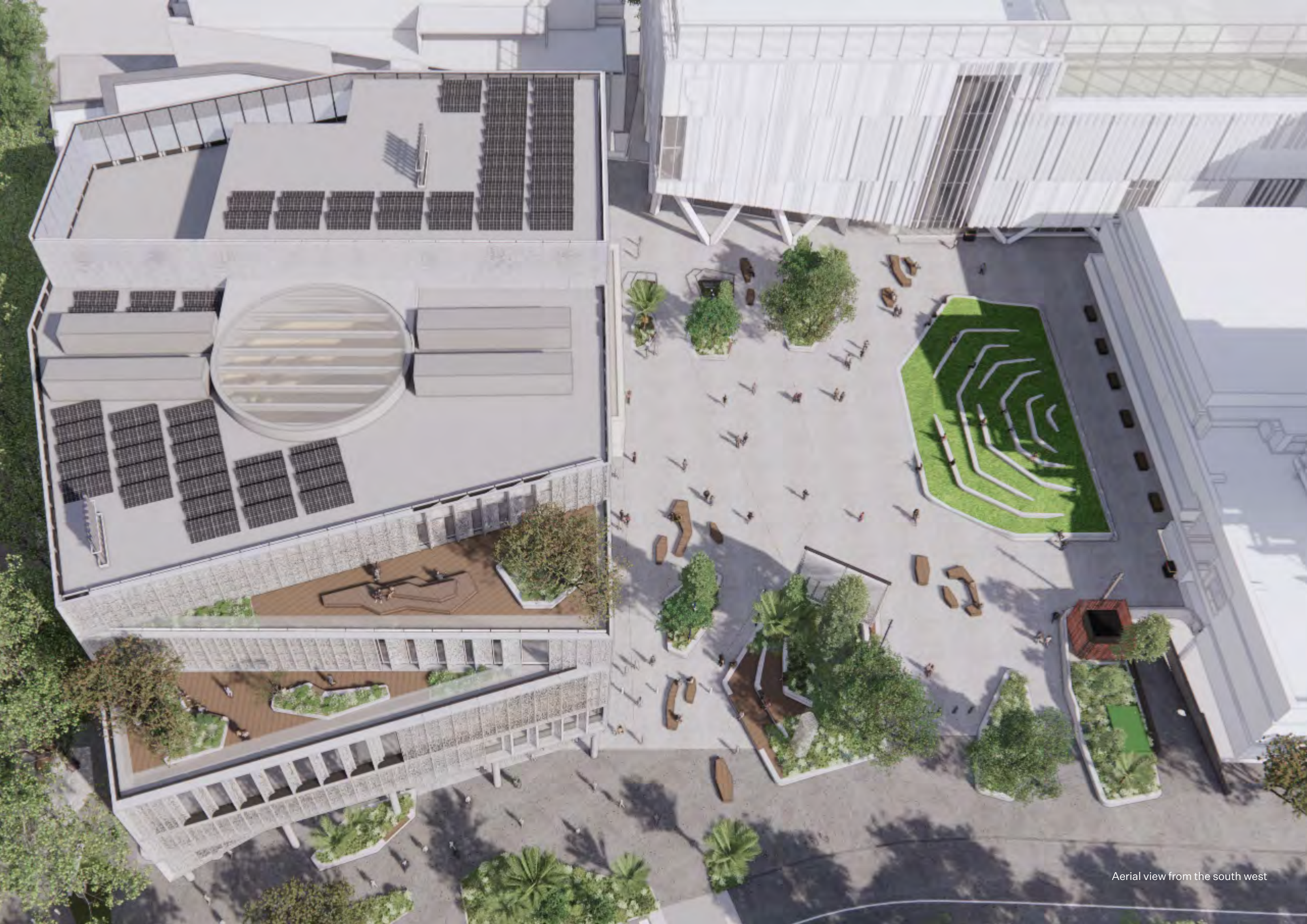
+ Freestanding Seating Pods



+ Flexible Furniture Elements

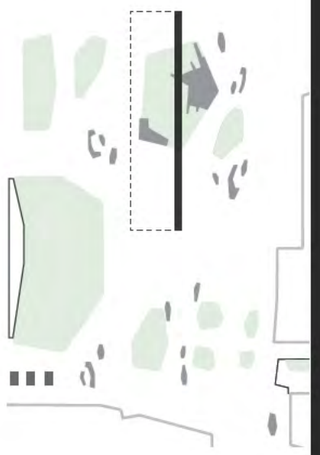


Aerial view into Tē Tūātea / Plaza from the north west



Aerial view from the south west

5.0 Section Views
Tē Tūātea / Plaza





Section 01





Section 02

5.0 Section Views
Tē Tūātea / P[illegible]



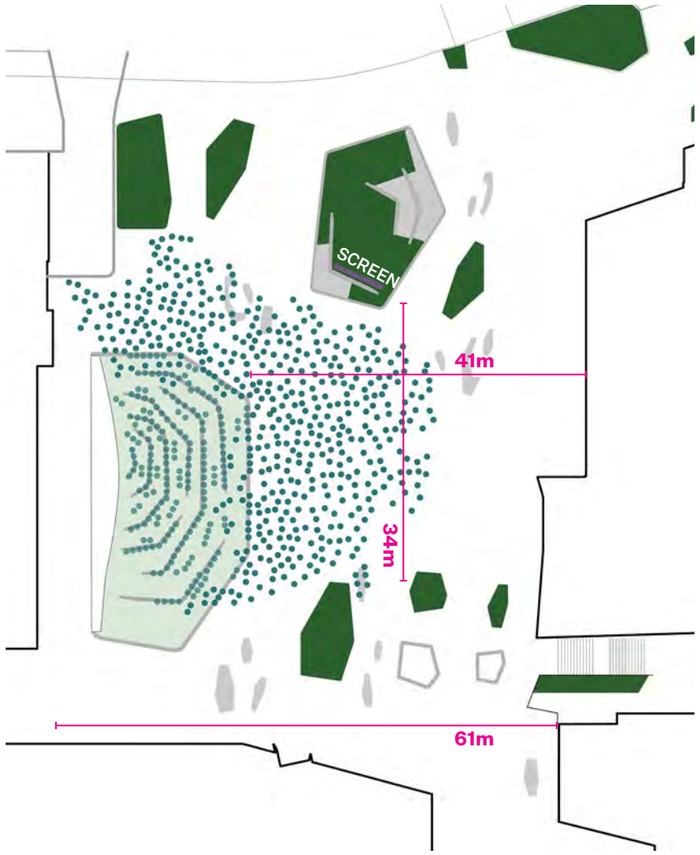
Section 03



Section 04

5.0 Event Space Studies - Screening
Tē Tūātea / Plaza

: 1 Person 0.75m²



Sport or movie screening event
600 people

1:750 @ A3





5.0 Event Space Studies - Market Day
Tē Tūātea / Plaza

: 1 Person 0.75m²



Market with food trucks
400 people
70 3x3 stalls
7 food trucks

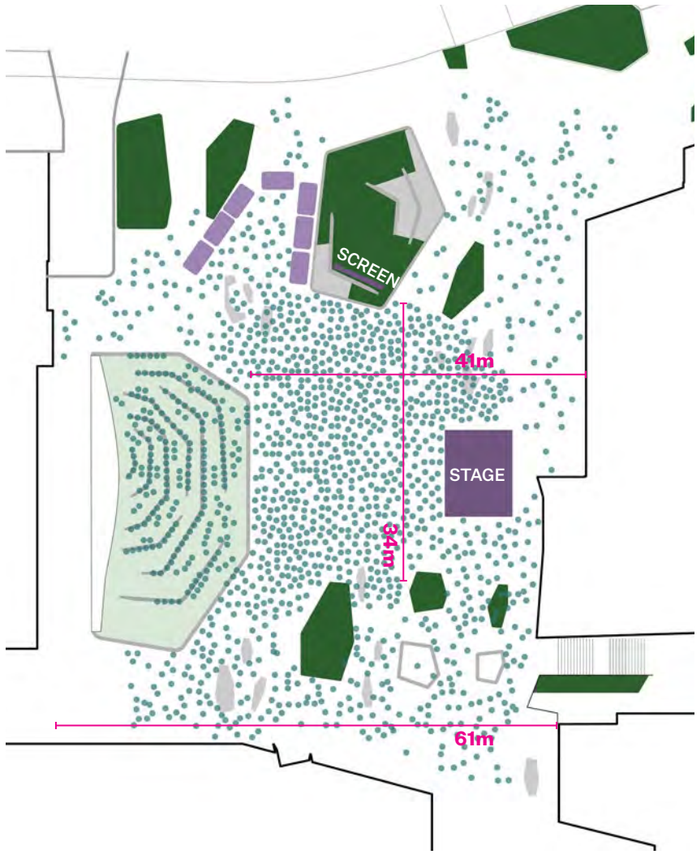
1:750 @ A3





5.0 Event Space Studies - Concert
Tē Tūātea / Plaza

: 1 Person 0.75m²



Large stage event
Primary space: 1000 people
Surrounding space: Additional 500 people
7 food trucks

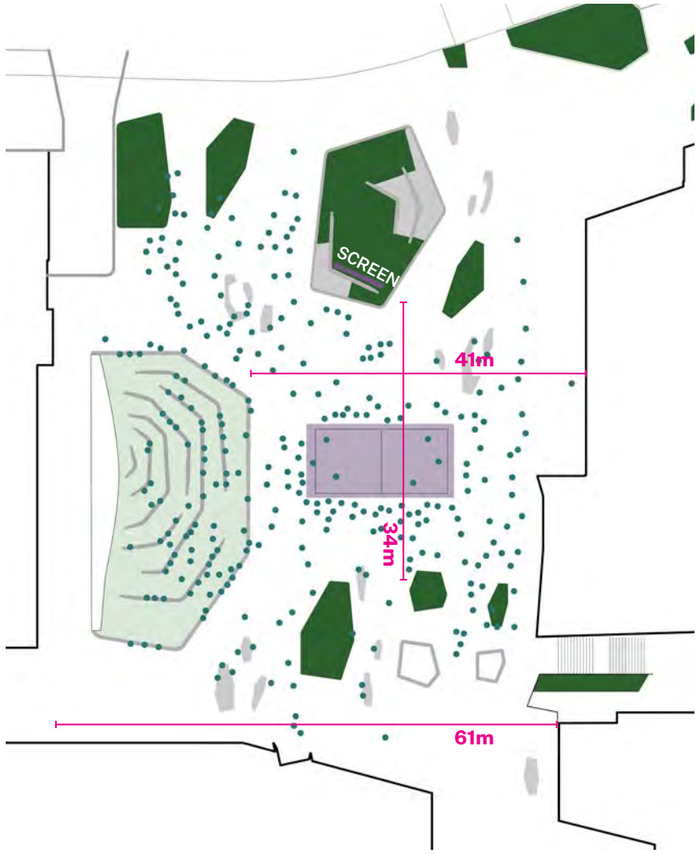
1:750 @ A3





5.0 Event Space Studies - Volleyball
Tē Tūātea / Plaza

: 1 Person 0.75m²



Pop-up Volleyball Event
300 People

1:750 @ A3





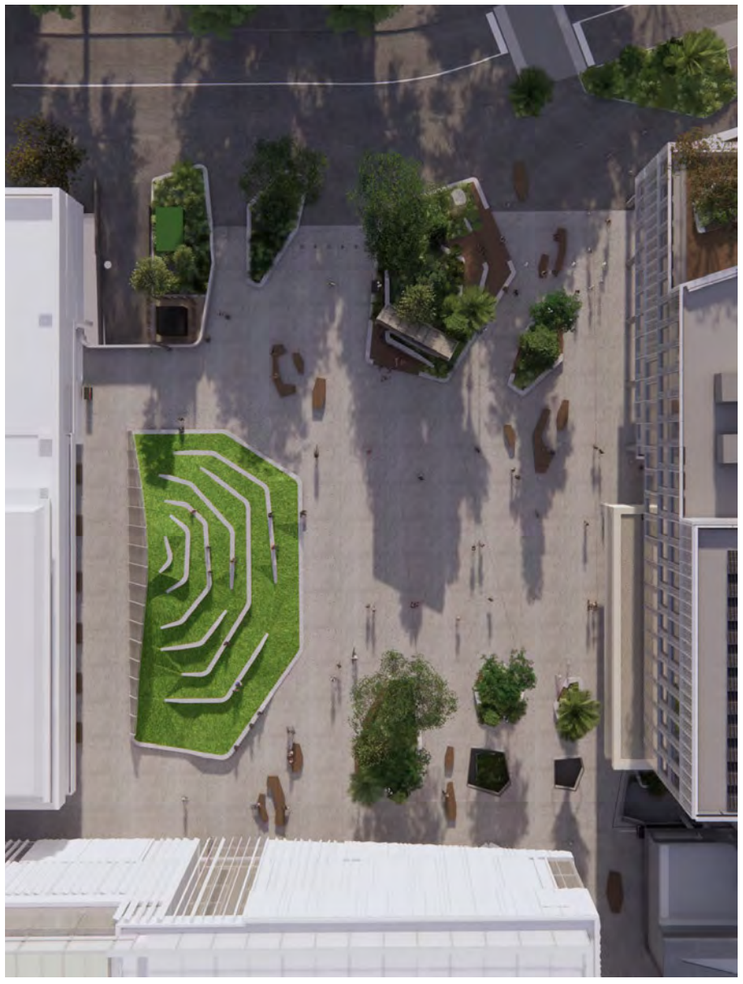
5.0 Solar Study - Semester One
Tē Tūātea / Plaza



9:30am May 15th



12pm May 15th



3:30pm May 15th

5.0 Solar Study - Semester Two
Tē Tūātea / Plaza



9:30am November 15th



12pm November 15th



3:30pm November 15th

5.0 Illustrative Views
Tē Tūātea / Plaza



1. Approaching Tē Tūātea / Plaza from the intersection of Alfred and Princes Street.



2. Looking towards Tē Tūātea / Plaza near the buildings northern entrance.

5.0 Illustrative Views
Tē Tūātea / Plaza



3. Looking south towards Symonds Street from the proposed Princes Street crossing.



4. Looking into the central open Tē Tūātea / Plaza from the north west.

5.0 Illustrative Views
Tē Tūātea / Plaza



5. Looking across Tē Tūātea / Plaza towards the mound from the buildings western entrance.



6. Looking north towards Princes Street from the laneway between HIWA and Kate Edger.

5.0 Illustrative Views
Tē Tūātea / Plaza



7. Looking north across Tē Tūātea / Plaza towards the Princes Street crossing.



8. Looking east across Tē Tūātea / Plaza from the existing mound.