

ÄKAU

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About the ĀKAU Foundation

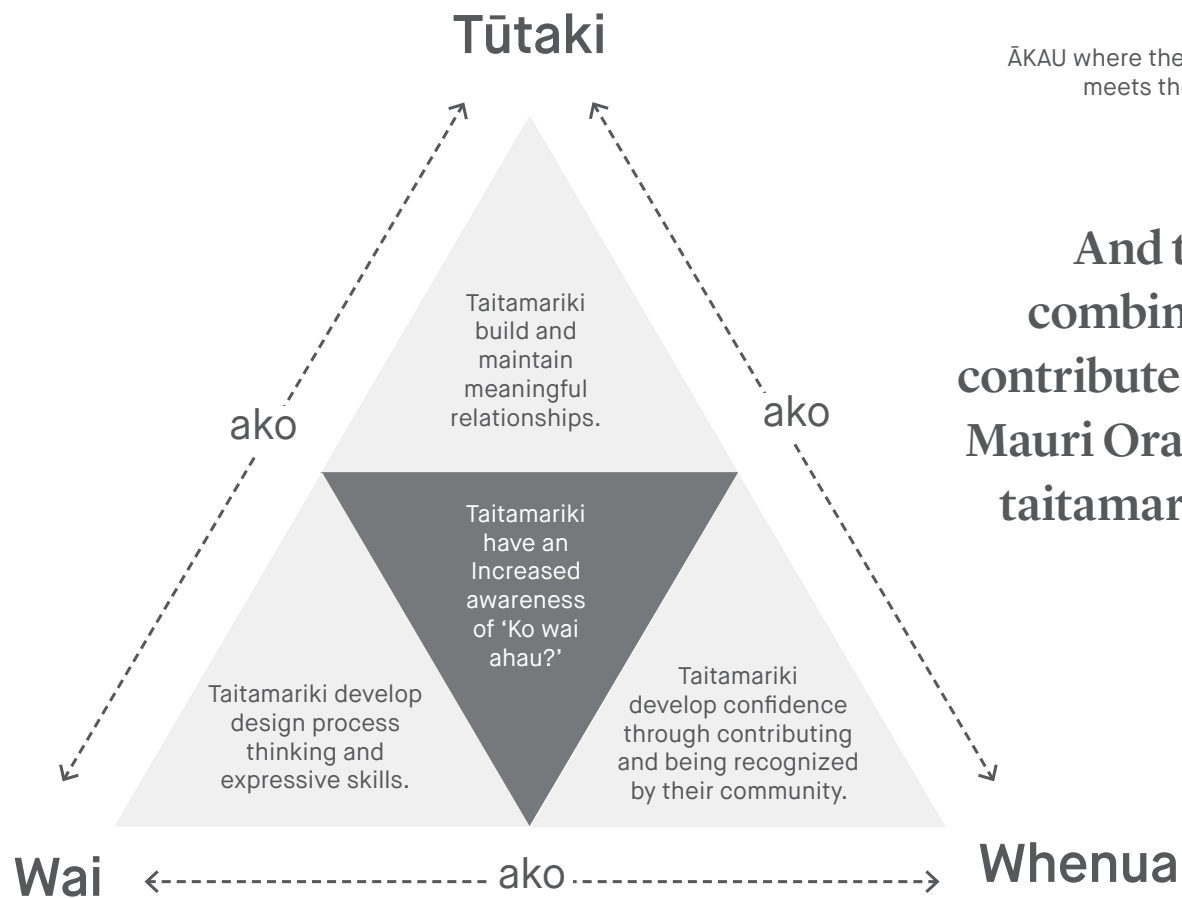
We value the ideas young people have for making their environment more awesome. By using design to engage taitamariki we hope to walk alongside them from exclusion, to inclusion, to greatness.

The ĀKAU Foundation strives to empower taitamariki around Aotearoa to feel more connected and creative so that they can navigate the future with confidence. We help taitamariki recognize and harness the creativity of their tupuna by involving them in tangible projects that have real impact for taitamariki, their whānau and their community.

The Foundation is connected to the ĀKAU Studio which is a unique design and architecture practice that places people and community at the heart of our projects. Profits from the Studio help fund more opportunities for young people.



Through ĀKAU...



“ Ka tūtaki ai te
wai ki te whenua.

ĀKAU where the water
meets the land.

And this
combined,
contributes to
Mauri Ora for
taitamariki.

Our Unique Model!

ĀKAU

STUDIO

Collaborative
Design &
Architecture



100%
of our profits fund
opportunities for
taitamariki.



ĀKAU

FOUNDATION

Empowering
Taitamariki
through Design

About the ĀKAU Studio

ĀKAU is a unique design and architecture practice that places people and community at the heart of our projects. Our intention is for every project to create positive impact beyond its built outcome.

We see ourselves as a connection point between client, consultants, taitamariki and the wider community. We value a collaborative design approach because this allows us to engage with communities in an authentic way. As a result, project outcomes are more meaningful, appropriate and speak of the people and place in which they are built.

Our team is made up of architects, interior designers, graphic designers and artists. We offer complete architectural services, taking projects from the seed of an idea to completed construction. We can deliver all stages of projects including community engagement, concept design, construction documentation and building contract administration.

The Studio work's alongside the ĀKAU Foundation ensuring taitamariki are engaged in the design process of each of our projects.

ĀKAU is a social enterprise and 100% of our profits support the ĀKAU Foundation.

About the Project

PROJECT OUTLINE

This project has been driven by the local community and is currently being led by Renee Reilly.

“In 2017 the New Zealand Breakers offered a local Kaikohe school the opportunity to play the curtain raiser basketball game at the North Shore Events Centre. We traveled to Auckland and stumbled across the ‘Boroughs Project’ - full sized outdoor basketball courts, free for the community to utilise with free Wi-Fi included. The kids of Kaikohe decided WE NEED THIS in our community!”

ĀKAU were engaged to assist on this project to develop an overall vision for the site encompassing the dreams, aspirations and stories of the community. The original scope was thought to include the following:

- New full size Outdoor Basketball Court with Acrylic court finish.
- Tables, seating, rubbish bins, shade elements, water fountains etc.
- Reinvigoration of Skate-bowl.
- Consideration of Links to surrounding areas and amenities.

Concept Design Workshop

The desire to engage whānau and community is key to leading a successful community focused design project such as this kaupapa. For this reason the ĀKAU Foundation engaged taitamariki in the design process for this proposed community led development.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

31st January, 2019
10am - 3pm

WHO: 8 Tamariki from local basketball teams,
7 Community members with an interest in basketball and the development of the community.

Russell Cooper (WSP-Opus), Tukaha Milne, Ana Heremaia & Matenga Ashby (ĀKAU).

WHERE: ĀKAU Studio, Kaikohe & the proposed site for the Basketball Court.

The following is a summary of the taitamariki and community design outcomes from the workshop.



The Process

DESIGN CHALLENGE

To develop design concepts for the Kaikohe Basketball Court that reflects stories and concepts reflective of Kaikohe, its culture and community.



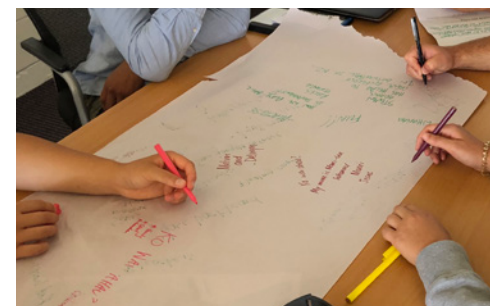
01 SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Russell from the WSP-Opus team inspired the taitamariki with innovative designs of recently built basketball courts all over the country that takes a simple lined court and turns it into an impressive community feature. The workshop participants used this new found knowledge to create graphical and visual concepts that connect all of the spaces in Kaikohe together.



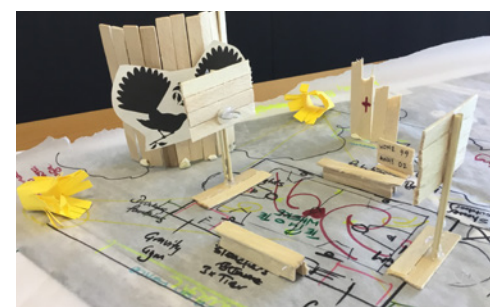
02 SITE ASSESSMENT

After the project brief was outlined to the participants our taitamariki explored the site and identified its’ strengths and opportunities. Some of the strengths were identified as large amounts of free space and trees for shelter from weather conditions. Some of the weaknesses were being too close to the WINZ, Child Youth and Family Buildings. The skatebowl was seen as potentially hazardous due to its steepness and a lack of whanau areas.



03 EXPLORING KO WAI AHAU

Part of the way Akau does things to inspire creativity is to have them design spaces using ko wai ahau - who am i. This exercise is a way to understand what people value and draw from the common themes that arise from all of the individuals in the room.



04 DEVELOPING CONCEPTS

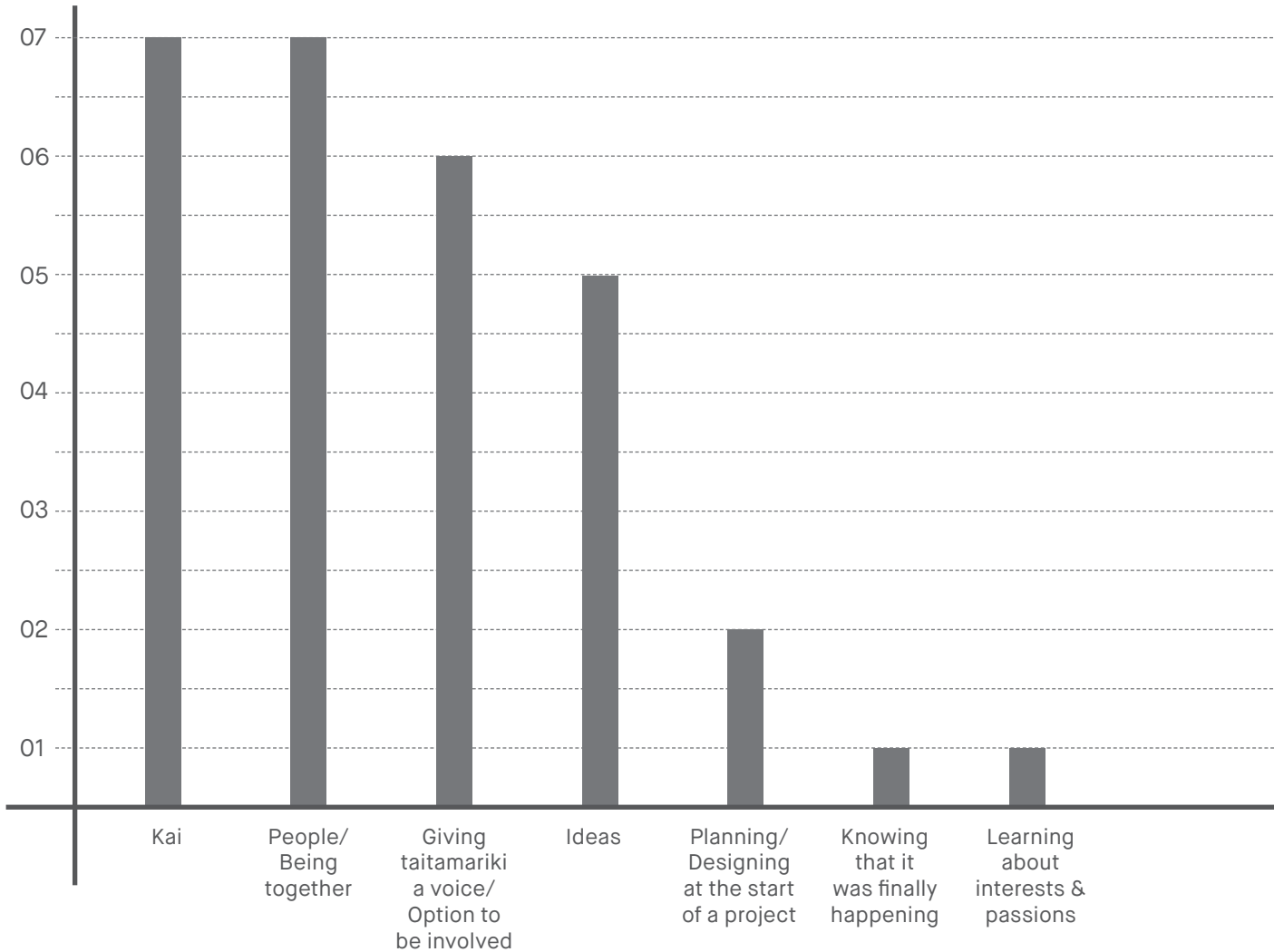
In groups the tamariki and community members focused on aspects that were important to them when in a public sharing space. They developed their concepts based on ko-wai-ahau in context to their kainga. This phase really pushed our taitamariki outside their comfort zone but it was AMAZING seeing how they all translated their ideas into a visual format.

Taitamariki and Community Outcomes

“

I enjoy basketball and I wanted to be a part of this.

~ Taitamariki Workshop Participant
Age 15



01 WHAT DID TAITAMARIKI SAY THEY LOVE ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS?

02 WHAT DID TAITAMARIKI SAY THEY LEARNT DURING THE WORKSHOP?

- Being open minded
- Thinking outside the box
- Getting thoughts and ideas out
- Different ways to design
- Meeting new people
- Modelling
- Designs
- Size of court/dimensions
- The design process
- How to utilize and consider an outdoor space
- How things can be purposeful for our rangatahi, community and whanau

03 HOW DID TAITAMARIKI FEEL ABOUT BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROJECT?

88% COOL!
12% OK!
0% STINK!

- WHY?
- “Our community doesn’t really have things so this is cool to do”
 - “Feels like we were giving back”
 - Community involvement
 - Different and informative
 - “Because of the outcome”
 - “Coming up and letting people know what the community may like”
 - “Increased understanding”

“

It was cool because we were all on the same waka.

~ Taitamariki Workshop
Participant, Age 16

04 DID TAITAMARIKI HAVE FUN? AND WHY?

100% YES!
0% NO!

- WHY?
- Seeing Rangatahi work together
 - Whanau oriented
 - Hanging with friends
 - “Got to see my basketball family”
 - “Because I’m passionate about basketball”
 - “Dreams come true”
 - “Creating and drawing”

05 WHAT COULD WE DO BETTER NEXT TIME?

- Dream boards to take home
- Find more people and include them
- Not stand out in the sun too long when doing site visits

Taitamariki

Site Assessment



Taitamariki assessing the site.

01 WHAT THINGS WORKED WELL IN THE SPACE?

- Plenty of trees for shade
- Huge grassy area to run around
- Close to food/Mcdonalds
- Good place to hang out with friends
- Open community area

02 WHAT THINGS ARE NOT SO GOOD ABOUT THE SPACE?

- The new extension to the skatebowl is too steep for our taitamariki, collects rubbish and is used for things other than skating/biking. Use your imagination (!)
- Not many whānau areas to sit down together.
- Public toilets are too far from the park itself (McDonalds)
- Lack of seating

03 WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SPACE?

- Whānau oriented
- FUN (whanaungatanga)
- Welcoming and open
- Multi-purpose and functional
- A space that helps to develop taitamariki
- Basketball Court at an international standard
- Cultural element/ Pride
- Inspirational space
- Utilised by more local people
- Water fountain
- More shade
- Fences/ball guard
- Storage area and ball pumps
- Exercise equipment
- Seating/benches
- Bike stands
- BBQ Area
- Score system



Community leaders developing their ideas!

Taitamariki and Community Design Concepts

The following are key concepts that came from the design process facilitated with community members.

01 WHĀNAU FIRST

This was a common theme throughout the activities and steered a lot of the conversations throughout the day. The concepts developed by our taitamariki and community members had a central heart space dedicated to whānau to be able to come together. This central space allowed whānau to eat, play, hangout and train together while having a view to all the adjacent areas. This is not only for safety but to also retain the sense of inclusion that they are all there, enjoying their time together.



The central element of this concept designed by local young people features a central whānau BBQ area.



Taitamariki developing their concepts with the help of some professional advice from OPUS.

02 OPEN SPACE

During the design workshop, taitamariki indicated that one of the highlights for them after a visit to the site was the sense of open space. The wide-open space they believe contributed to be the space being welcoming, inviting and positive. Design elements were to enhance this and not to detract from it, which led to the placement of bench seating, storage of personal belongings and also included the design of a back netting (to stop balls from damaging vehicles or the hassle of retrieving balls from car parks adjacent) as well as the flow of the foot paths all of which must consider utilizing materials and design which is functional whilst not detracting from the free flowing open space.



Taitamariki and Community Design Concepts

03 GRAPHIC FEATURES

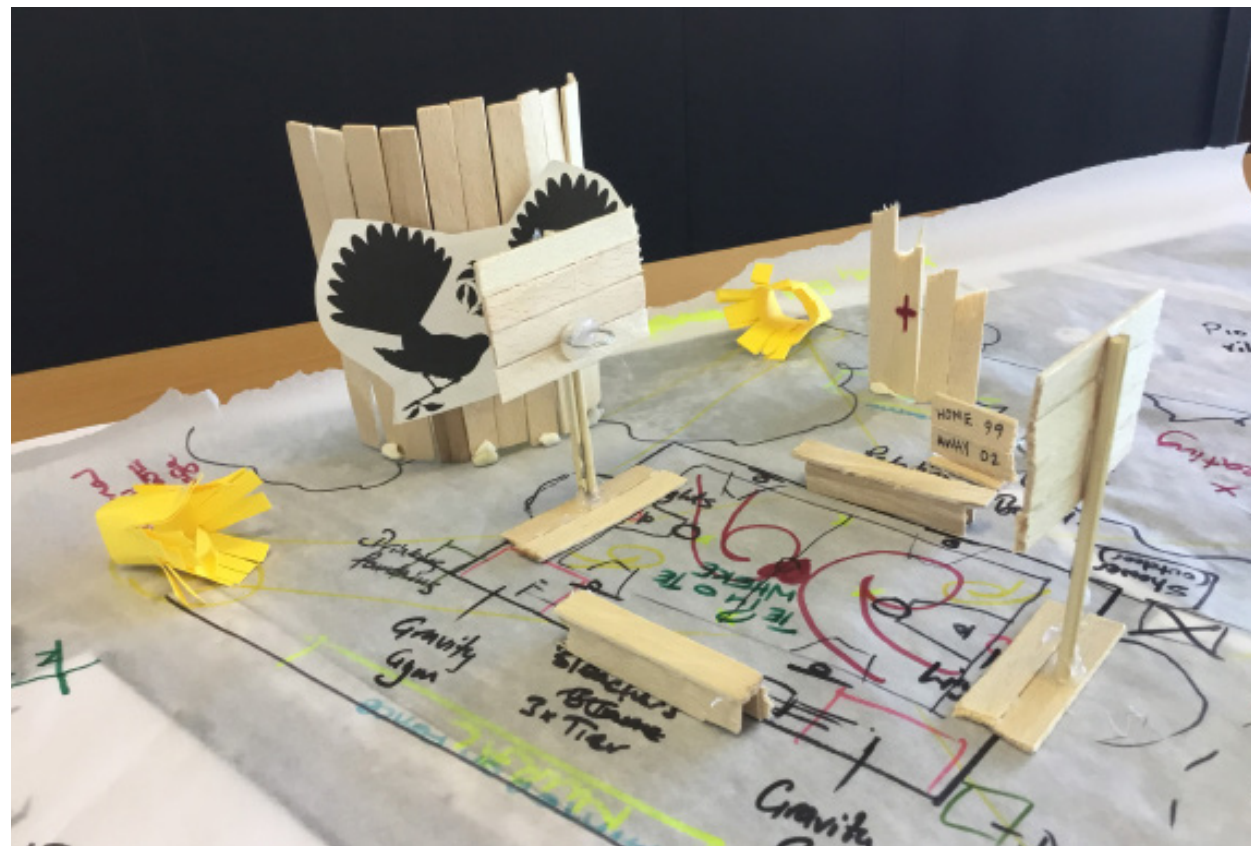
The tai tamariki and whānau participating in this workshop were keen on integrating graphic design and art into the design of the basketball court as well as the surrounding features and amenities.

There was a few ideas discussed and at the heart of the discussions the tai tamariki were in agreeance that the design needed to be reflective of them and their identity. Although no definitive conclusion was agreed upon as to exactly what that would be there were some common themes:

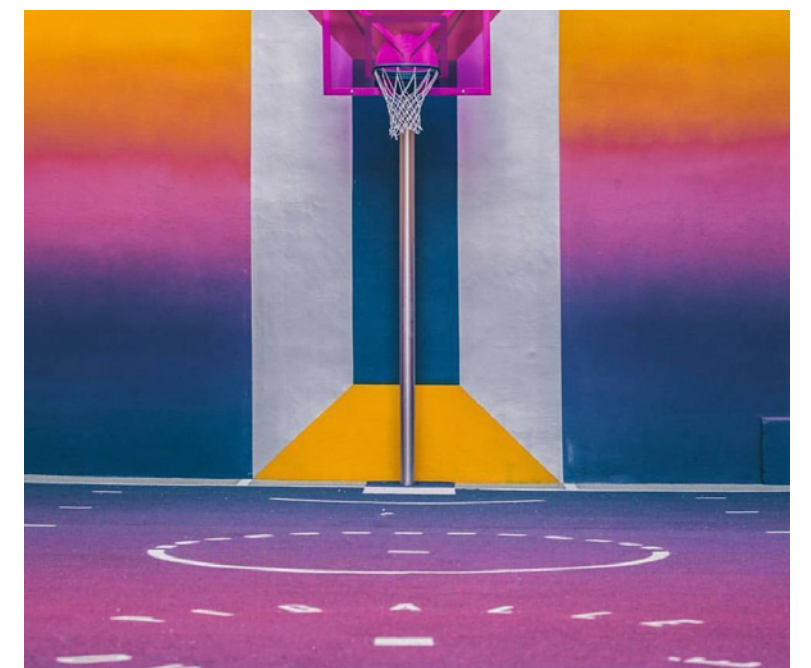
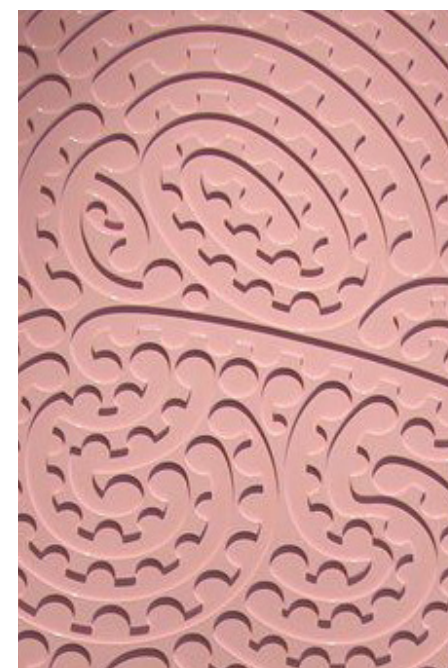
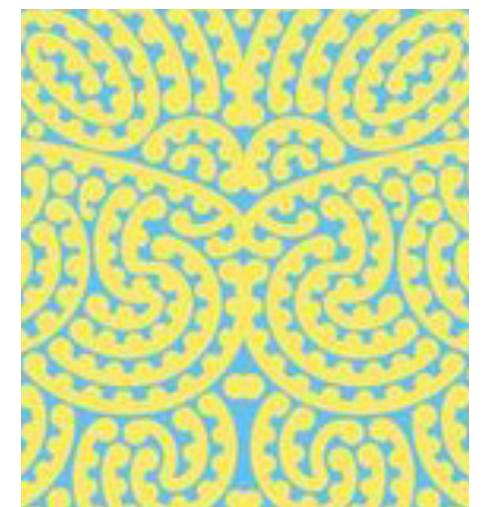
- Nature inspired e.g. birds, animals, trees etc...
- Contemporary Māori art inspired
- Bright vibrant colors
- Minimalistic but eye catching.



Some of the explorative basketball court designs by taitamariki.

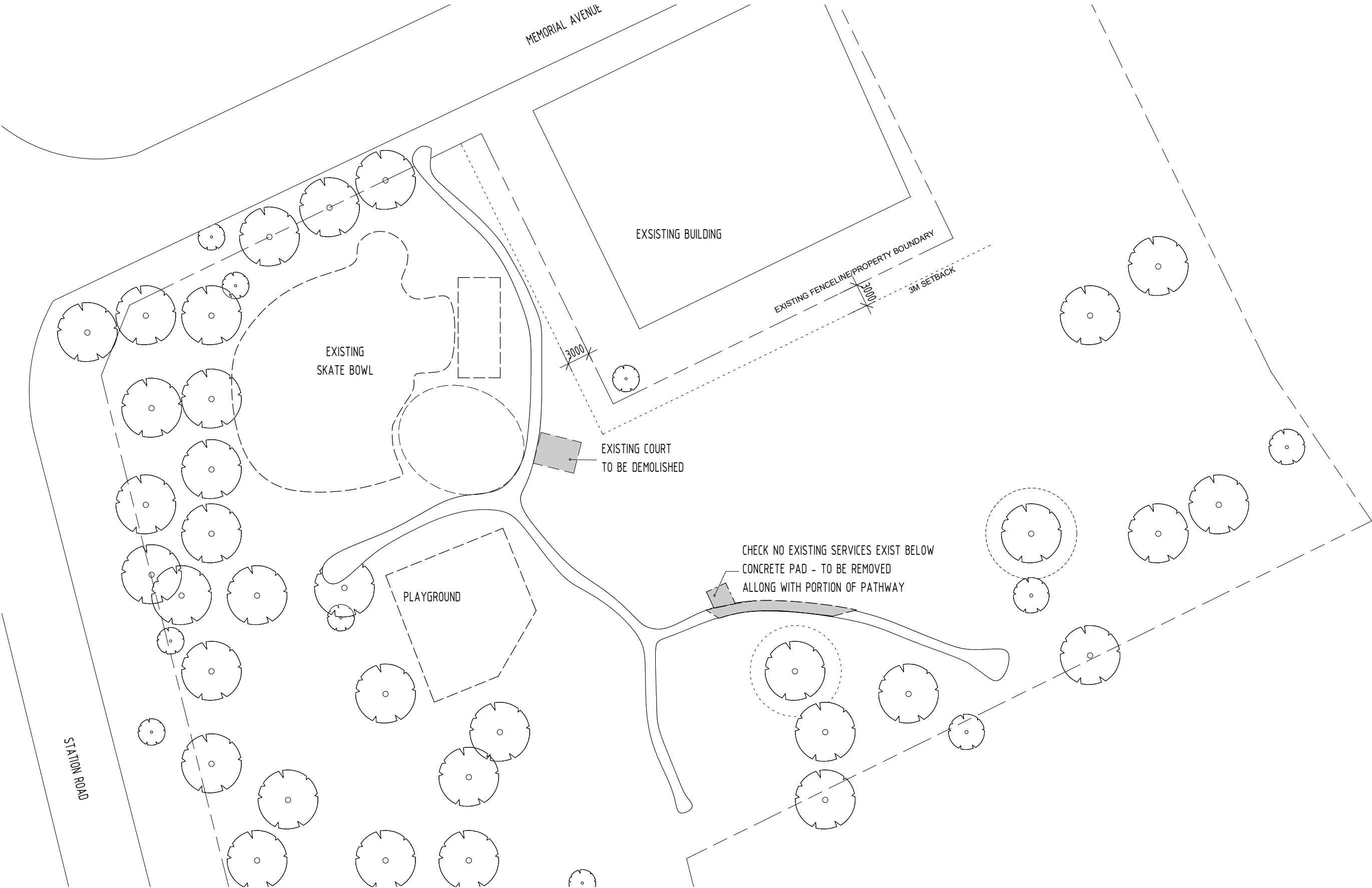


Inspiration!



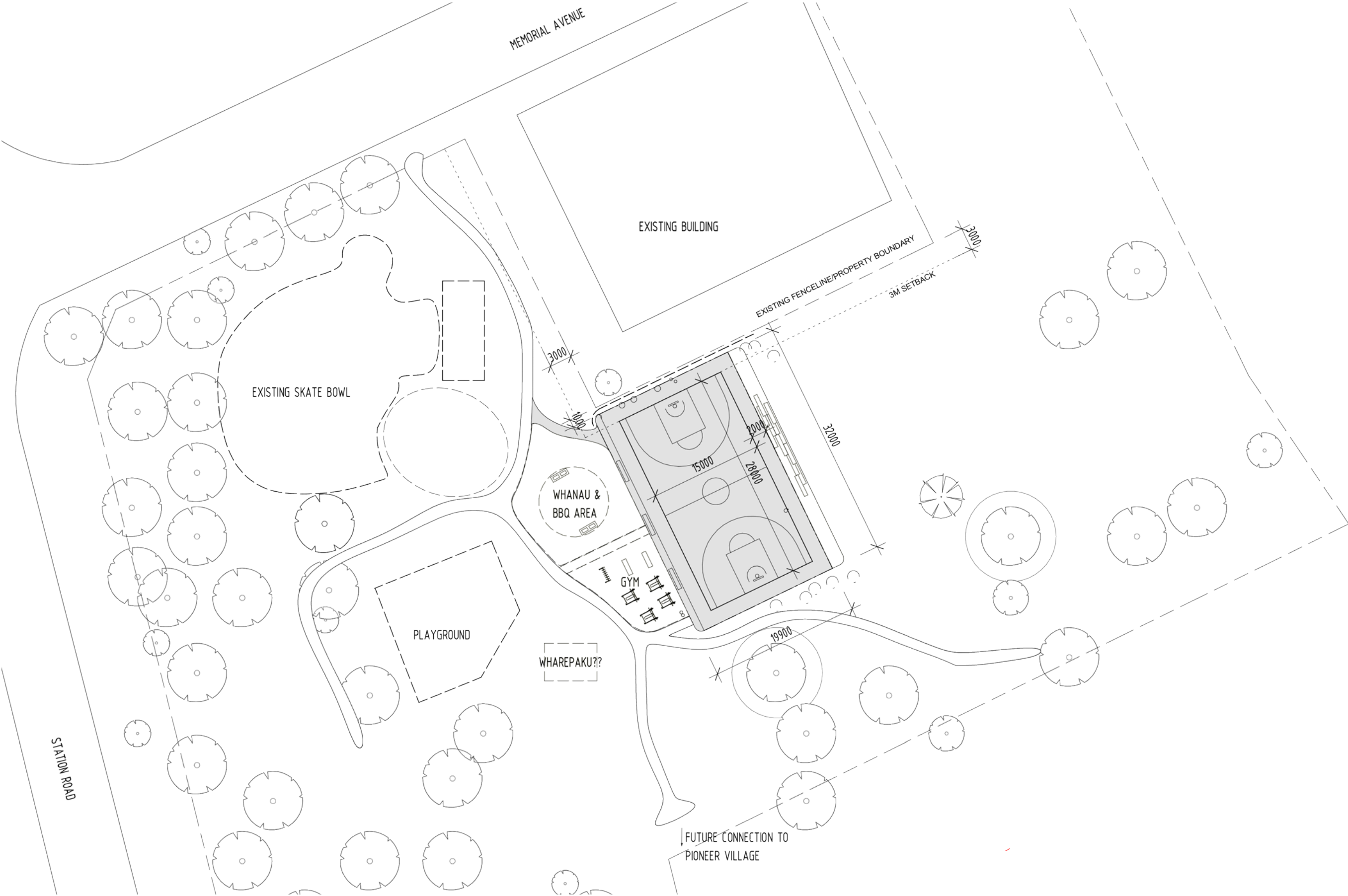
Existing Site Plan

SCALE 1:1000@A3



Proposed Site Plan

SCALE 1:1000@A3



Proposed Plan

SCALE 1:200@A3



Design Elements

01 BASKETBALL COURT

Orientation

During the workshops it was discussed at what times the court would mainly be occupied. Taitamariki decided that they would predominately use the court after school into the evening. The location and direction of the court has been positioned to avoid direct sun at either ends of the court during this time so as to not interfere with people shooting.

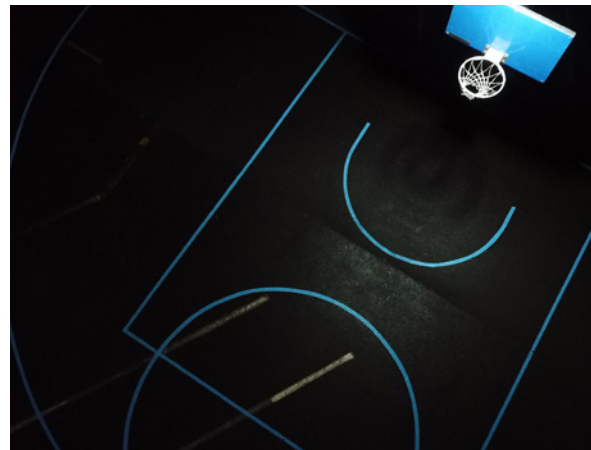
Lighting

Taitamariki said they would love to play Basketball late into the evening and considered all sorts of lighting from glow in the dark court lines, glow in the dark hoops and more standard lighting fixtures. As a community the decision for lighting needs to be considered, as lighting up areas can have both negative and positive impacts.

Graphics

The integration of dynamic graphics was a desire during the workshop. We imagine this would be developed in the next phase of this project and could be a collaboration between local artists and local taitamariki.

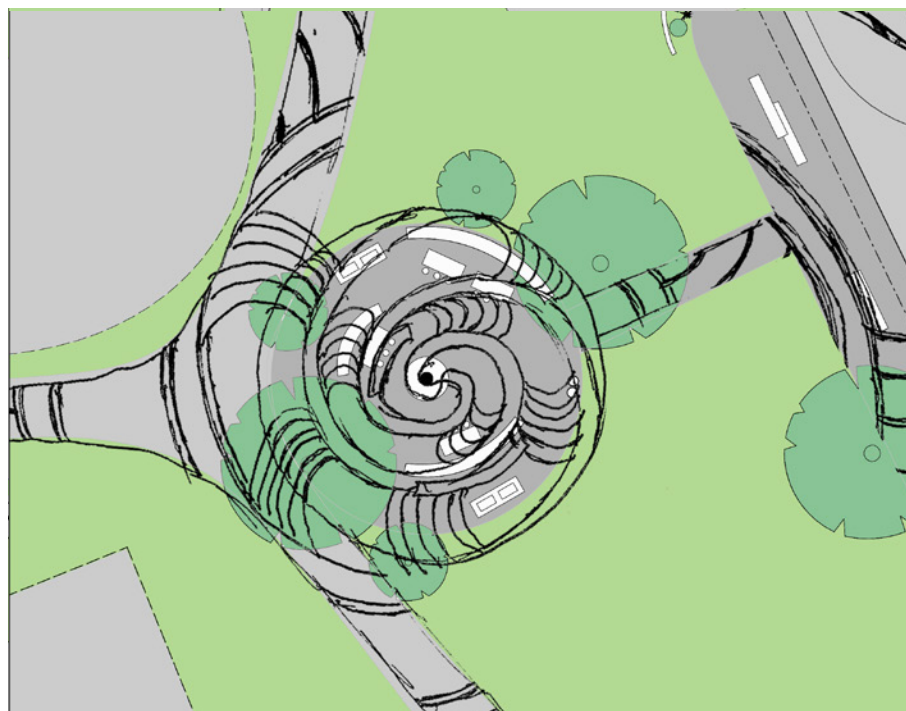
This is one example of how we can further develop the concept of 'whānau first' through the design. A ponahi design with its central spiral anchored in the centre of the whānau area. Unaunahi pattern flowing out from this space representing movement, growth and aspiration of our people.



One lighting solution could be the solar powered ParkLight which is fitted to Basketball Towers to allow for play after dark.



Graphics can be installed to most outdoor basketball court applications.



02 WHĀNAU SPACE

Orientation

This space would be located central to the design to enable a connection between all areas of the park.

Features

Taitamariki imagined this would be a place for BBQ's, shared kai and general hang out space.

Shade

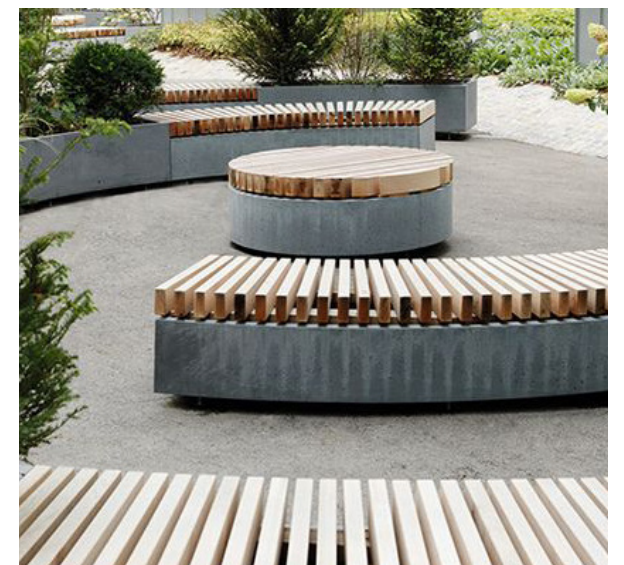
It is important that this space would incorporate shade which could include natural tree shade as well as picnic tables that had a space to BYO picnic umbrellas. It was noted that whānau do not like the monolithic concrete style picnic tables so other options would need to be explored.



No concrete eating tables here thanks!

03 BENCH SEATING

Custom Bench seating would be used throughout the whānau zone and around the Basketball Court. This would be a combination of single tier as well as multiple tier seating around the basketball court for bigger community matches.



The whānau area would incorporate curved elements and a central focal area.

04 CUSTOM BALL SCREEN

The adjacency of the Basketball court to Work and Income NZ can be resolved by a combination of planting and a sculptural ball screen to provide a barrier between this court and this space. This concept will be developed further in the next phase of this project.

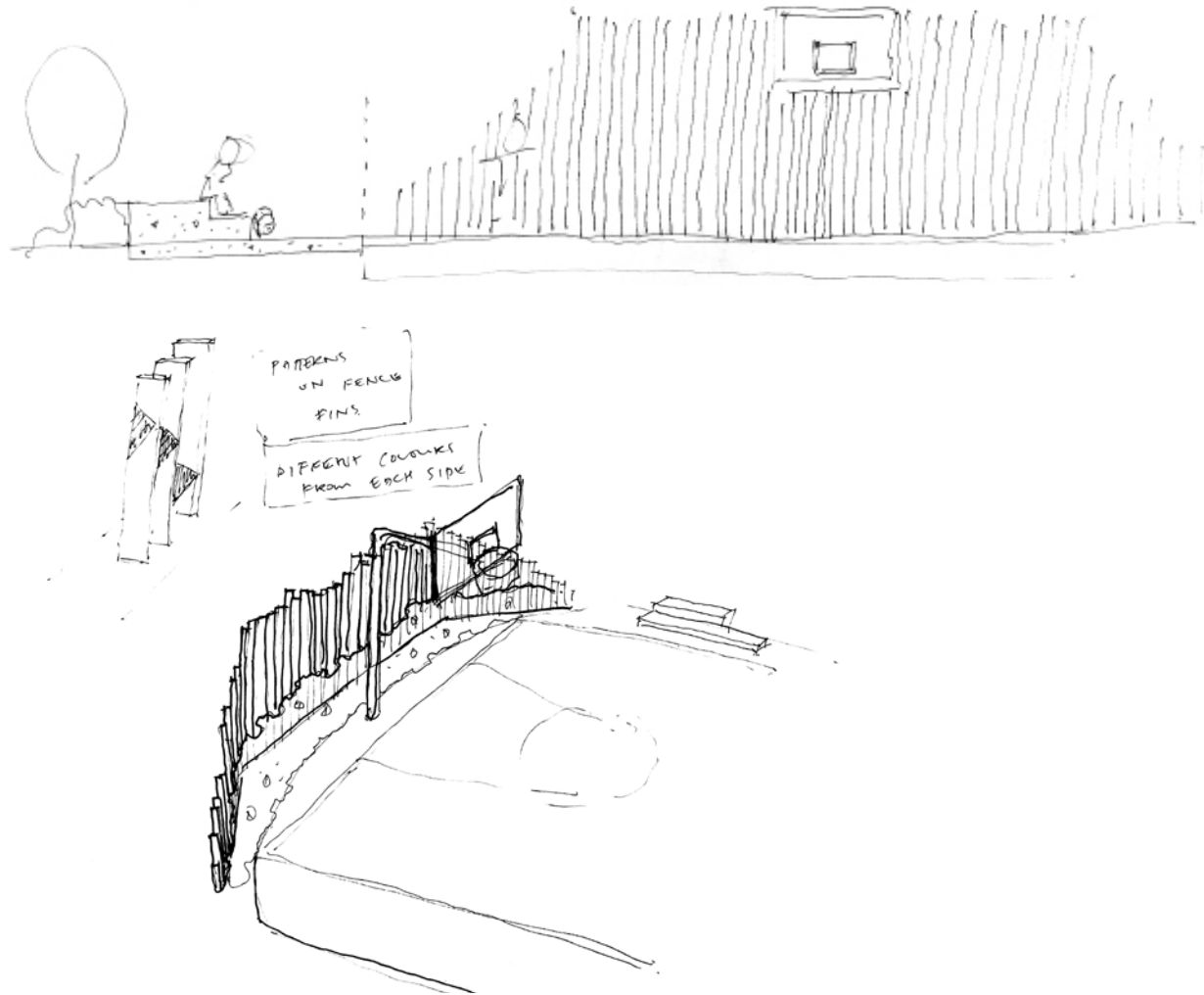
10 EXISTING PATHS

We have utilised existing paths but one concept derived from taitamariki was to have a consistent graphic spiraling from the centre whānau space out to the skatepark, pathways and basketball court. Graphics could be paint applied, poured resin or other.



Resin Surfaces are the provider of premium decorative, architectural and coloured surfacing solutions.

Design Elements



Concept Sketches showing the possibility of a custom screen and adjacent seating.

06 EXERCISE ZONE

Some community members had a desire to see a gravity gym incorporated into the design. Patu Kaikohe, although unable to attend the workshop would like to explore what this zone might look like to ensure any equipment developed is utilised, has many functions and can be used by local organisations for the hauora of our whānau.



What might exercise equipment look like?

11 OTHER

Some elements were raised that could be incorporated into the design:

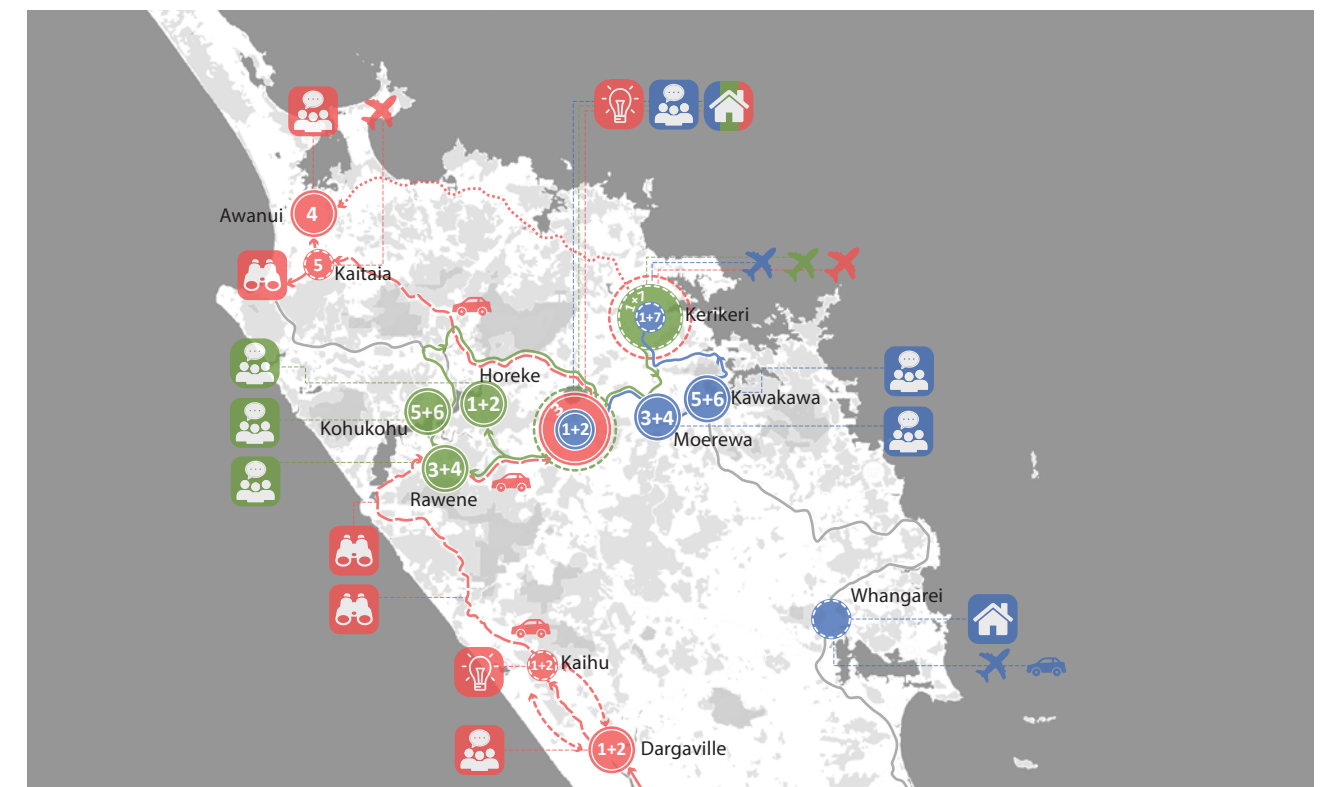
- AED Equipment
- Storage of equipment for local organisations to be able to access for trainings.
- Reinstatement of the once existing toilet blocks. Currently whānau have to utilise the toilets at McDonalds.
- Scoring system.
- Outdoor Shower

Other Connections

TWIN COAST DISCOVERY

ĀKAU are part of a winning tender collated and prepared by Isthmus (<http://isthmus.co.nz>) for the 'Twin Coast Discovery Route (TCDR) Township Plans' project by NZTA. This project presents an opportunity to connect both journey and destination, and to explore the duality and balance of tangata whenua (local) and manuhiri (visitor) perspectives, from east coast to west coast. We are working

with the team to help design and facilitate creative place-based workshops at each township along the Twincoast Discovery to enable the team to develop meaningful town designs for these communities. We believe this project is important to the townscape of Kaikohe and believe this can fit into the extended korero of this community and beyond.



The Communities part of the 'Twin Coast Discovery Route (TCDR) Township Plans'