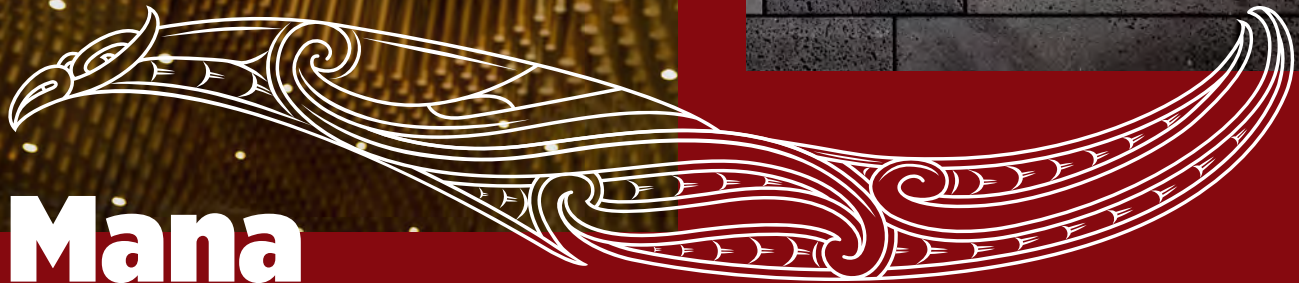




Each piece of mahi toi (artwork) is accompanied by a small sign with further information and a QR code link to our website where you can explore the story further.



Mana Toi Ora

Explore City Rail Link
station stories and art

The mahi toi throughout these stations has been made possible through the City Rail Link Mana Whenua Forum partnership with Te Ākitai Waiohū, Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei & Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū.



at.govt.nz/mahi-toi

Mana whenua & station design

In 2012, eight iwi (Māori tribes) from across Tāmaki Makaurau worked with architects and artists to ensure Māori history, values and knowledge were embedded into the new city centre stations. This ensured Māori culture was woven into the architecture, artwork and station spaces from the start.

Each station is designed using Te Aranga design principles, grounded in Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge). These principles guided decisions about form, light, materials and movement, including site specific mahi toi (artwork). Together, they honour and recognise the enduring presence of iwi in Tāmaki Makaurau.

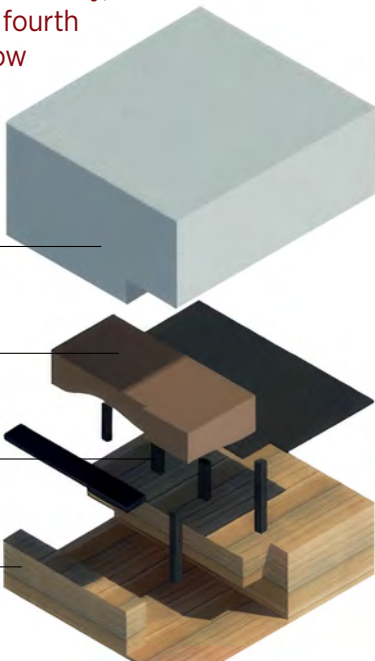
At the core of the design approach is the Māori creation story of Ranginui (Sky Father) and Papatūānuku (Earth Mother), and the journey from darkness into light. This story is expressed through four shared design elements: sky, earth, threshold and the fourth element, which shape how people arrive, descend and move through each station.

1. Sky Element

2. Threshold Element

3. Fourth Element

4. Earth Element

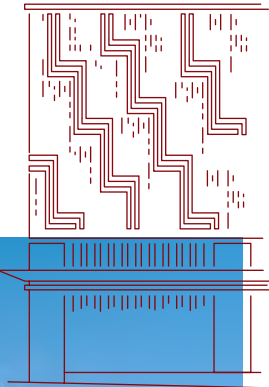


Te Teihana o Te Waihorotiu

Te Waihorotiu Station design story

The name Te Waihorotiu honours the nearby Waihorotiu Stream. Today the stream is buried below Queen Street. It once flowed in the open, past Horotiu pā (historical fortified village) to the Waitematā Harbour. Horotiu pā sat on an elevated site at the Rangipuke settlement, near the area now known as Albert Park.

The station name connects past and present. In the past, the Waihorotiu Stream supported daily life, cooking, washing, bathing and growing food for those who lived nearby. Today, Te Waihorotiu Station supports the movement of people into and across this same whenua.



Scan here to learn more

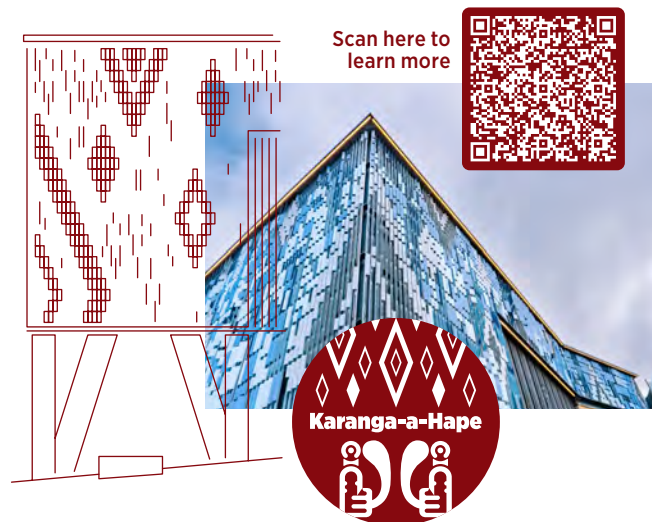
Te Teihana o Karanga-a-Hape

Karanga-a-Hape Station design story

Karanga-a-Hape can be translated as ‘The Call of Hape’. Hape was a name given to Rakataura, who was the tohunga (knowledge-holder) of the Tainui waka, one of the ocean-going canoes that migrated to Aotearoa. Hape was an ancestor of great mana or renown.

After being left behind his skill and determination were such that, following karakia (prayer), Hape was carried by Kaiwhare (a guardian) and crossed the ocean to arrive in Tāmaki before the Tainui waka.

When the Tainui waka arrived at the Manukau Harbour, Hape followed its progress from the ridgeline and called out a great welcome to the waka. Today, in this modern location too, Hape welcomes us all.



Te Teihana o Maungawhau

Maungawhau Station design story

Maungawhau Station's design is inspired by Mataaoho, atua or deity of volcanoes. Another spelling of the atua is Mataaho. Mataaho once lived in the crater of nearby Maungawhau (Mount Eden).

This crater is known as Te Ipu-a-Mataaho, meaning the cup or bowl of Mataaho.

For mana whenua, the importance of Maungawhau lies in its summit, crater, slopes, lava caves and water springs. These were vital resources for the historic Maungawhau pā.

The name Maungawhau literally translates as mountain (maunga) of the cork tree (whau). Whau was traditionally used for fishing floats and medicine.



Te Teihana o Waitematā

Waitematā Station design story

Set within a historic building beside the harbour, Waitematā Station brings together past and present through layers of design and public space.

The name Waitematā Station reflects its closeness to Waitematā Harbour.

Waitematā is translated as waters (wai) of obsidian glass rock (matā), or glassy waters.

In an ancient story, an ancestor from Te Arawa iwi placed matā into the harbour as a mauri (spiritual charm).



Scan here to
learn more



Waitematā Station is one of the four City Rail Link stations, but its design differs from the others.

Rather than being newly built, the station sits within the CPO building. The CPO was constructed between 1909 and 1912 on land that was reclaimed from the harbour.

The building is a Category 1 Historic Place, listed with Heritage New Zealand. It is a well-preserved example of Edwardian architecture that has been carefully updated for modern transport use.

From Britomart to Waitematā

Waitematā Station was previously known as Britomart Station. The station was renamed Waitematā Station in 2023 as part of the City Rail Link project.

While the station name has changed, the surrounding area continues to be known as the Britomart Precinct.

Together, the historic CPO building, new public spaces and mahi toi (artwork) reflect the many layers of change at the edge of the harbour.

Waitematā Mahi toi locations



Scan here to learn more about each mahi toi



Tomokanga Tomopai
Accessible Entrance
Te Komititanga

Te Komititanga

Tyler St

Quay St

Galway St

Custom St East

Gore St

Commerce St

Fort St

Shortland St

High St

Donnell St

Emily Pl

Emily Place Reserve

Emily Pl

Anzac Ave



Waitematā

E-W

ki • to Ōrākei/Te Waihorotiu

S-C

ki • to Parnell/Te Waihorotiu



Tomokanga Tomopai
Accessible Entrance
Tyler St or Galway St



1. Te Komititanga

Te Komititanga is the large public plaza in front of the station building. The name means to mix or to merge.



2. Waiti Waitā

Waiti Waitā sits within Waitematā Station Plaza. This location is near where the Waihorotiu Stream once entered the Waitematā Harbour.



3. Station history and heritage hub

Located on the B1 floor within Waitematā Station, visit our City Rail Link station history and heritage hub to uncover years past and engineering involved in building the four stations and tunnels. View artefacts discovered during construction and watch videos to experience the history of the project.

Te Waihorotiu Mahi toi locations

Lead artist – Graham Tipene (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Manu)



1. Horotiu

Overhead within the Wellesley Street entrance are over 4,000 golden rods. Within them rests Horotiu, a kauri whakairo (carving).



2. Matariki skylights

Seven skylights represent the whetū (stars) of Matariki.



3. Te pūhoro me te mangōpare

A traditional kōwhaiwhai pattern on dark panels above train platform level.



4. Raupō

Four concrete crossbeams stitch together the concourse level, suspended above the platform below.



5. Whakarare

The Victoria Street entrance ceiling features a whakarare pattern and lights.



6. Te Hā o Mataaoho

An air intake for the station is located above ground on Kingston Street and represents "the breath".



7. Where would you go?

Over 3,000 artworks by children are featured below the Albert Street entrance.



Scan here to learn more about each mahi toi



8. Wāhine

Outside the Victoria Street West entrance, Wāhine is a sculpture of a Māori woman performing a karanga (call out) to welcome manuhiri (visitors).



Scan here to see more Auckland public art



Te Waihorotiu

E-W ki • to Waitematā/ Karanga-a-Hape

S-C ki • to Waitematā/ Karanga-a-Hape

Tomokanga Tomopai Accessible Entrance Albert St



7

5

8



Tomokanga Tomopai Accessible Entrance Victoria St West

4

3

2

1



Tomokanga Tomopai Accessible Entrance Wellesley St West



Karanga-a-Hape Mahi toi locations

Lead artist – Reuben Kirkwood (Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Waikato Tainui, Waiohūa, Ngāti Ruanui)



Scan here to learn more about each mahi toi



Tomokanga Tomopai
Accessible Entrance
Beresford Square



Karanga-a-Hape

E-W ki • to Te Waihorotiu/Maungawhau

S-C ki • to Te Waihorotiu/Grafton

3 6 4

5

2 1



Tomokanga Tomopai
Accessible Entrance
Mercury Lane



1. Me te Rangi ka paruhi

Above the Mercury Lane entrance, dark concrete panels reference a pare (an entranceway lintel).



2. Ko Tāne Pupuke

Within the Mercury Lane entrance are 3 pūpūrangi (kauri snail) shell sculptures.



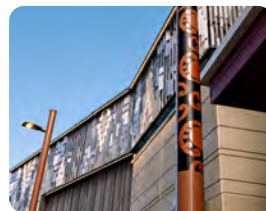
3. Me te Ōturu

Located within the Beresford Square entrance, this artwork reflects Maramataka (traditional Māori lunar calendar).



4. Te Pō

Located outside the station on Beresford Square, Te Pō (meaning darkness) is an air intake for the station below.



5. Tāne te tokotoko o ngā rangi

The design of Mercury Lane reflects the moment Tāne (deity of the forests) separated Ranginui (Sky Father) and Papatūānuku (Earth Mother).

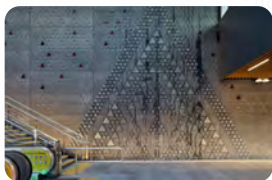


6. NZ's longest escalators

These escalators are 43 metres long, reaching a depth of 33 metres below ground. That's about the same height as a ten-storey building!

Maungawhau Mahi toi locations

Lead artist – Tessa Harris (Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki)



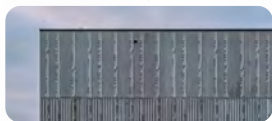
1. Parawhenuamea

This waterwall inside the station entrance tells the story of Parawhenuamea, atua (deity) of freshwater.



2. Te Ipu-a-Mataaho

The copper-coloured ceiling at the station entrance references the volcanic landscape of Tāmaki Makaurau.



3. Te Hā

This tunnel ventilation building is known as Te Hā, meaning the breath.



4. Ahi Tupua

This pedestrian bridge tells the story of Mataaoho, atua (deity) of volcanoes.



5. Karā Toki

This pedestrian bridge references karā (basalt) or lava in its cooled, solid state.



6. Mataaoho

The face of Mataaoho, atua (deity) of volcanoes, is cast into bridges over-looking rail lines.



7. Mt Eden Road Bridge



8. Normanby Road Bridge



9. Ruru Street Bridge

These three road bridges each contain unique designs referencing volcanoes and lava.



Maungawhau

E-W

ki • to Kingsland/ Karanga-a-Hape

O-W

ki • to Kingsland/ Grafton

Tomokanga Tomopai
Accessible Entrance
Ruru St



Scan here to
learn more
about each
mahi toi