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Introduction

With growth comes change. As Tāmaki Makāurau continues to grow change will occur to our neighbourhood and, there will be new places to live, work and play. Good design is critical as development intensifies and populations grow, and undertaken well ensures that what is critical and important is retained and respected amongst this growth

Design can be a positive tool to aid development and help achieve better quality urban environments by creating great buildings, spaces and places that are distinctive to Tāmaki Makāurau, designed from local values and approaches. To do this we collectively need to gain a better understanding about the different contexts and unique characteristics that make up the cultural, natural and built environments of Tāmaki Makāurau.

The Ministry for the Environment defines **character** as "the distinctive identity of a particular place that results from the interaction of many factors, including built form, people, activity and history" (MfE 2005:2). For Tāmaki Makāurau the basis for our distinctive identity comes from the identities, histories, narratives and aspirations of the **tangata whenua** of the lands the city has been built upon. An ongoing dialogue and working relationship with **Mana Whenua** as iwi authority has enabled the development and use of the Te Aranga Māori Design Principles as part of design and engagement processes. These principles provide direction to influence and guide design process for project teams to positively engage with **Mana Whenua**, and to work with their values, principles and aspirations to help shape the built environment and create distinctive outcomes.

Positively working with Māori culture and embedding **Mana Whenua** values into design offers up significant opportunities that benefit all. The Te Aranga Māori Design Principles (the Principles) are a set of outcome-based principles founded on intrinsic Māori cultural values and designed to provide practical guidance for enhancing outcomes for the design environment. The principles have arisen from a widely held desire to enhance **Mana Whenua** presence, visibility and participation in the design of the physical realm (https://content.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/design-subjects/maori-design/te_aranga_principles/Documents/TeArangaStrategy28Apr08_lr.pdf).

Core Māori Values

The Core Māori Values

Core Māori values have informed the development of earlier Māori design principles. These process-oriented principles have provided the foundation for, and underpin the application of, the outcome-oriented Te Aranga Māori Design Principles.

- **Rangatiratanga:** The right to exercise authority and self-determination within one's own iwi / hapū realm
- **Kaitiakitanga:** managing and conserving the environment as part of a reciprocal relationship, based on the Māori world view that humans are part of the natural world
- **Manaakitanga:** the ethic of holistic hospitality whereby **Mana Whenua** have inherited obligations to be the best hosts they can be
- **Wairuatanga:** the immutable spiritual connection between people and their environments
- **Kotahitanga:** unity, cohesion and collaboration
- **Whanaungatanga:** a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging
- **Mātauranga:** Māori / **Mana Whenua** knowledge and understanding

These core Māori values are seen as underpinning and guiding the application of the seven Te Aranga Māori Design Principles.

Description

The key objective of the Principles is to enhance the protection, reinstatement, development and articulation of **Mana Whenua** cultural landscapes enabling all of us (**Mana Whenua, Mataawaka, Taiwi and Manuhiri**) to connect to and deepen our 'sense of place'.

The Principles seek to foster and guide both culturally appropriate design processes and design responses that enhance all of our appreciation of the **natural** landscape and built environment and which place **Mana Whenua** as the heart of both.

The Principles are intended as an enabling strategic foundation to adopt for design engagement with **iwi/hapū**. There is potential to customise and further develop in response to local **iwi/hapū** context. The principles also provide local and central government, other stakeholders and the design community with a clear understanding as to how **iwi/hapū** may value and wish to participate in the design and development of the built environment within their ancestral **rohe**.

The use of the Principles is predicated on the development of high quality durable relationships being developed between **iwi/hapū**, cultural and design professionals and local and central government. Robust relationships between these groups provide opportunities for design to integrate Māori values into design outcomes across the spectrum from identity to environmental.

Where have the principles come from?

The New Zealand **Urban Design Protocol (UDP)** was published by the Ministry for the Environment in March 2005. It was recognised that a clear Māori voice and meaningful involvement in the creation of the UDP had been absent, and that the process undertaken in the development of the protocols did not adequately engage with Māori interests. In response to this lack of consultation, and with the support of the Ministry for the Environment and Te Puni Kōkiri, a hui of Māori professionals working across the design disciplines, the resource management sector and representatives of **iwi/hapū** organisations from across Aotearoa/New Zealand gathered first at Waitākere in June 2006 and then in November the same year at Te Aranga **Marae** in Flaxmere to discuss and formulate a draft National Māori Cultural Landscape Strategy. The resultant Te Aranga Māori Cultural Landscape Strategy represented the first concerted and cohesive effort by Māori to articulate Māori interests and design aspirations in the built environment.

Whilst this forum was originally convened to discuss the challenges faced by Māori in the **urban** realm, it was clearly expressed that **hapū and Iwi rohe** encompass all parts of the physical environment and that the term '**urban design**' did not resonate with a connected and holistic Māori worldview. This fundamental position resulted in the adoption of the term '**Māori cultural landscape**' as embracing the landscape in its widest form.

*"As Māori we have a unique sense of our cultural landscapes. It includes past present and future. It includes both physical and spiritual dimensions. It is how we express ourselves in our environments, it connects **whānau, whenua, awa and moana** through **whakapapa**, it includes both **urban and rural**, it is not just where we live it is who we are."* (Te Aranga Maori Cultural Landscape Strategy 2006: www.tearanga.maori.nz)

A set of seven outcome-oriented design principles emerged from the foundation work of Te Aranga and other projects, including **Kaitiakitanga o ngā ngahere pōhātu: Kaitiakitanga of urban settlements (2011)**, a report commissioned by the Ministry of Science and Innovation that builds on a growing body of research and represents the most comprehensive research completed to date. The report identifies key elements of **Mātauranga Māori** that can be incorporated into **urban** planning to allow Māori aspirations to be fulfilled, while also complementing and improving existing **urban** planning practices.

How have the Principles been developed and applied?

Since the release of the Te Aranga strategy a number of follow-up hui were held to discuss the development of a more complex set of specific protocols and guidelines to inform Māori **urban** planning. Case studies continue to reveal that

existing mainstream **urban design** approaches and guidelines (e.g. New Zealand **Urban Design Protocol**) are insufficient in ensuring enhanced built environment outcomes for **Mana Whenua** and Māori communities. The Principles that emerged from the Te Aranga and other Māori **Urban design** strategy work were tested and refined through a series of large-scale **urban** infrastructure projects within greater Tāmaki Makaurau, the process of which guided further refinement of the principles and established widespread Tāmaki Makaurau **Mana Whenua** engagement, participation and critique.

An early project was the Auckland Transport Auckland Manukau Eastern Transport Initiative (AMETI). This was the first significant post-Te Aranga public development in Tāmaki Makaurau, providing opportunities to engage meaningfully with **Mana Whenua** and to test the principles on a real project. Through the engagement process, the principles were applied and worked through to a point of appropriate design resolution in particular relation to the Panmure Railway Station precinct.

Significant value has been added to the ongoing development of the City Rail Link (CRL) project started in 2012 with the Principles being formally embedded and applied through design processes. The CRL will link Waitemātā station (Britomart) to the existing western line near at the new Maungawhau station (Mt Eden) and is a key project in an integrated transport programme to improve public transport as the city grows. As part of the **Mana Whenua** engagement process, each **iwi** wrote a Cultural Values Assessment (CVA), the majority of which referred to the Principles.

The most recent significant developments in the use of Principles has been with two transformational City Centre projects, Commercial Bay (a private development) and the Downtown Infrastructure Development Programme (DIDP **public realm**).

The April 2020 opening of the Commercial Bay precinct in the Tāmaki Makaurau downtown waterfront area is proof of the value that Māori design and the Te Aranga Principles bring to a large scale private sector development. Commercial Bay is an important contribution to Tāmaki Makaurau. Early design and planning featured meaningful engagement with **Mana Whenua**, which confirmed the importance of the site to **Mana Whenua**. The application of Te Aranga Principles has resulted in unique design outcomes.

The DIDP has demonstrated the value in applying and refining the principles through a programme of large scale **public realm** capital works projects to be completed early-2021. An agreed aspiration of the DIDP was to lift the importance of **public realm** space for residents and visitors to Tāmaki Makaurau, which resulted in new ways of thinking about design for the city centre, expressed in the phrase "Moving Auckland to Tāmaki Makaurau. Tāmaki Hērenga Waka, Tāmaki Hērenga Tangata". This design principle provided the opportunity to move beyond the Te Aranga principles and to develop and utilise emerging **Mana Whenua** specific principles within the six projects that make up the DIDP. These specific principles were further refined by bringing **Mana Whenua** endorsed design, art and environmental experts to work alongside the design practices delivering the projects. The DIDP has demonstrated the critical need for **Mana Whenua** involvement to occur right from the outset to produce high quality, distinctively Tāmaki Makaurau **urban design** thinking and built environment outcomes.

Prior to publication of the 2020 Māori Design Hub upgrade, the **Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum** (a **Mana Whenua** governance forum made up of all 19 recognised Tāmaki Makaurau **iwi/hapū**) notified Te Kaunihera that it intends to develop a set of Tāmaki Makaurau-specific design principles in the 2020/2021 period. It is expected that once finalised, these will replace the Te Aranga principles in promoting and considering Māori design within Tāmaki Makaurau.

The **Auckland Urban Design Panel (AUDP)** is a Te Kaunihera organised and funded forum of independent expert design practitioners that assess and provide guidance to large developments across Tāmaki Makaurau seeking to achieve high quality **urban design** outcomes. In 2019 the AUDP committed to supporting Auckland Plan (2018)_outcomes to "Reflect **mana whenua mātauranga** and Māori design principles throughout Auckland" and the group's membership included six Māori design experts nominated by **Ngā Aho (network of Māori Design professionals)** (<https://ngaaho.maori.nz/index.php?m=2>). These members bring specialist knowledge and experience to assessing developments which have involved **Mana Whenua** engagement, impact on known features within the cultural landscape or where Māori design has been applied within the development proposal. The AUDP p[rocess is independent of resource consenting processes, and does not impinge on the role of **Mana Whenua** in providing its advice to applicants and Te Kaunihera.

References

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