



1 'Veranda in the Park' canopies, lighting complimenting architecture 2 Totare pare carved by local Iwi, louvred windows for ventilation
3 Structural Timber Engineering design

Te Pātaka Kōrero a Te Hau Kapua – Devenport Library

Project Location: Auckland

AECOM for Auckland Council

Disciplines: Electrical, Security, Mechanical, Hydraulic, Fire, Civil, Structural & Geotechnical



The new Devonport Library – Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Hau Kapua – is a model for 21st century libraries, catering for a range of community needs and embracing sustainability principles to ensure the library is environmentally friendly and fits in with its natural surroundings and surrounding buildings. Since opening in May 2015 the building has become a much-loved focal point in the Windsor Reserve landscape.

The \$7.8 million project was designed by Athfield Architects with engineering consultants AECOM, and successfully project managed by The Building Intelligence Group.

The sustainability focus highlighted the need for an enduring and durable space, and demonstrated sustainability is a way of making better decisions, not just a tack-on exercise. A highly collaborative design process involved developing an innovative set of decision-making criteria covering social, cultural and environmental aspects, delivering an integrated design, informed by evidence-based dynamic computer simulation.

Computer simulation was used for both engineering and architectural elements, promoting collaboration, while blurring between structure, architecture and services. This resulted in key innovations like the use of timber structural elements, to age gracefully, and passive building systems placing user experience at the forefront.

The building is multifunctional with several entrance points, meeting and study rooms, innovative collection shelving and configuration of wooden and metal shelves. Cushions, soft padded chairs and armchairs create cosiness; while technology is discreetly embedded amongst the shelves and spaces on ground and mezzanine floors.

The new Library has proved good value for (public) money - the numbers speak for themselves. Over 35,000 people visited in the first month, and new memberships have increased tenfold. The value of a community building can be only measured by community use. This new library is a huge success, delivering on its design premise to align the needs of the community with a facility that would remain relevant in the face of change.

Judging & Copyright Statement

This project is a Finalist entry in the 2016 INNOVATE NZ Awards of Excellence competition. The winners will be announced on Friday 2 September, 2016.

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