



NZILA RESENE PRIDE OF PLACE
LANDSCAPE AWARDS 2019

PARK

Landscape Design:
PARK Parks
Marine Parade, Napier

Submitted by
Boffa Miskell

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Marine Parade, Napier

The redevelopment of this key waterfront site on Marine Parade in Napier has given new life to the area by connecting the city to its coastline and replacing a waterfront carpark with a significant public space that reflects the natural and cultural landscape of the bay.

With the adjacent former Marine Land site - which has been redeveloped into a multi-purpose skate, event and entertainment facility - this new coastal public space is injecting activity and energy onto the city's coastal edge and providing coastal pathway users a reason to stop and engage. The park includes a mix of complimentary spaces, including structures and vegetation that offer shelter and coastal outlooks; gardens and undulating lawn spaces engaging with the sea and city; a multi-sports court; and a series of reflective and interactive water features that are threaded through the site provide something for all parts of the community and visitors alike.

Boffa Miskell led the landscape design, working with Paris Magdalinos Architects and Napier City Council. A key part of the project was developing the landscape and cultural narrative of the site with artist Jacob Scott, who also created the integrated and stand-alone artworks.

The design of the park references the former gravel spit on which the site sits: a threshold between the Pacific Ocean and the former lagoon upon which Napier was eventually developed. The design looks east to the horizon and frames the views and landscape connections to Cape Kidnappers/ Mataupo Maui and Mahia Peninsula.

This is Napier's place to talk to the Pacific, and to the global community. Local connections to pioneers such as sea-faring tupuna, and to Maui himself, are integral to the mana, the narrative and the structure of the project.

Maui was the innovator, the maverick, the challenger of the status quo. He was the initiator of a new world cycle, catching the sun and slowing it down; and he was this nation's fisherman, responsible for pulling up the North Island. With this bay being the fin of the stingray caught by Maui (Te Ika-a-Maui), and with views to Cape Kidnappers (Maui's hook), this narrative is a pivotal informer of the design.

The site itself is carved to create routes and spaces along the transition from the civic landscape of the Sunken Gardens to the more open coastline - a journey that uses water as its connecting element. Sculpting of the site provides a physical reflection of:

- the constant sculpting of the land's edge through coastal processes
- the flow of the historic Tutaekuri River behind
- the riding of the wave
- the motion of the stingray's fin/pakau
- the chasing of the chisel

Opened in late August 2017, the park immediately became a go-to place for locals and visitors alike, and has remained as such, regardless of season and weather.





Essential Criteria

1. Clarity

While other spaces along Napier's coastal edge are internally focused, often turning their back on the marine environment, this project looked to open up the landscape and reconnect it to the coastal edge, physically and visually. Fluid motion is reflected through spatial layout, movement patterns and detailing. The pushing and pulling of estuarine and coastal environments serves as a mechanism for drawing people together, at this meeting point of the land and water, reconnecting people with their place in the Pacific. These references and influences were identified early on in the design process and the built project demonstrates with great clarity these have had throughout all stages, leading to the construction of a beautifully simple and appropriate public space.

2. Sense of Place

Reconnection of city and natural environment is a central focus, and spatial design is driven by reflection of key landscape features – views to Mahia, Cape Kidnappers, and the horizon. The underlying cultural narrative ties together creation stories and the wider landscape with the spatial design of the site.

This is a big landscape, painted in broad brush strokes. Large seating elements are dropped on the site, sitting comfortably adjacent to the driftwood which comes and goes from the site in response to high tides and storm surges. The dynamic coastal environment brings change over time as well as a visually and aurally engaging edge to the site. Thoughtful design responses have resulted in a place which encourages community members of all backgrounds to engage with each other, and their environment.

3. Performance

The original brief was for development of a 'reef garden' themed park, based around a large central water feature. Through the creative process, we developed the brief with the client, and acknowledged that the greatest water feature we have is the coastal edge, particularly in this location; it is highly dynamic and deeply engaging to the senses.

The high energy coast is known to be dangerous for swimmers and as such, water was a key part of the project without being in competition with the coast.

Considered inclusion of activity opportunities throughout the site – sometimes overt, like the basketball court, sometimes not, as the sloped planter edges suitable for skating, riding, running or climbing – provide memorable moments for a visitor or a returning local.

4. Value

Napier is well known for its Art Deco architecture and its celebration of all things Art Deco. This park, while complementary to the aesthetic, provides a point of difference through a focus on diversity of users and uses.

Located on the Coastal Pathway, part of the Hawke's Bay Trails network, the park is a destination for active travellers (both locals and visitors) along their journey; an enabler for cultural exchange, financial benefit and positive experiences which will be taken home and shared with friends and families.

5. Innovation

A simple palette, detailed well and executed beautifully enhances the design, and complements the existing, distinctive architecture of Napier as well as the coastal edge.

The pou which punctuate the site are constructed with Fibre Reinforced Concrete and timber; CNC routing technology was used to create a custom clean-edged design, with low production costs and the ability to replicate and replace if needed in the future.

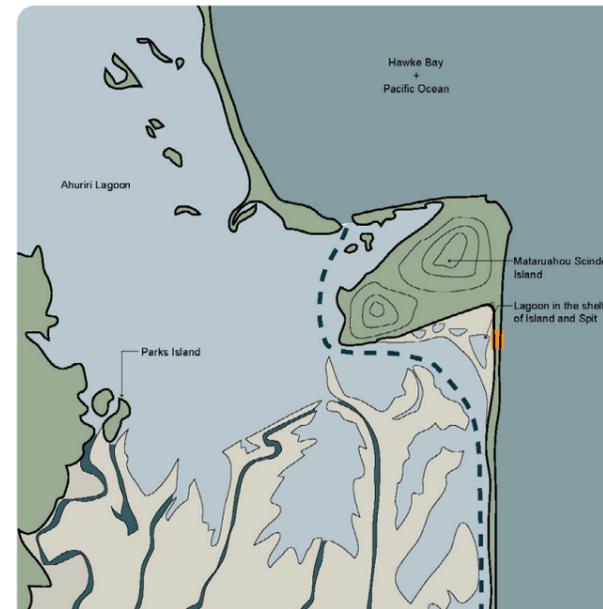
Contouring of path edges enables skaters to smoothly flow through the site. The water feature forms 'rooms' which address landmarks – Mahia, the horizon and Cape Kidnappers.

6. Execution

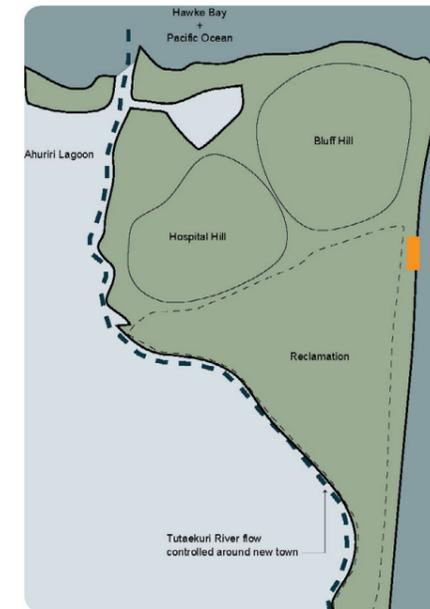
Boffa Miskell undertook landscape architectural design leadership throughout the life of the project, ensuring the design provides a new, yet familiar, aesthetic to Napier's foreshore.

Central to the success of this highly visible project was high quality detailing and multi-disciplinary design co-ordination and collaboration, including multiple water features with varying degrees of complexity, and working around a significant number of existing trees.

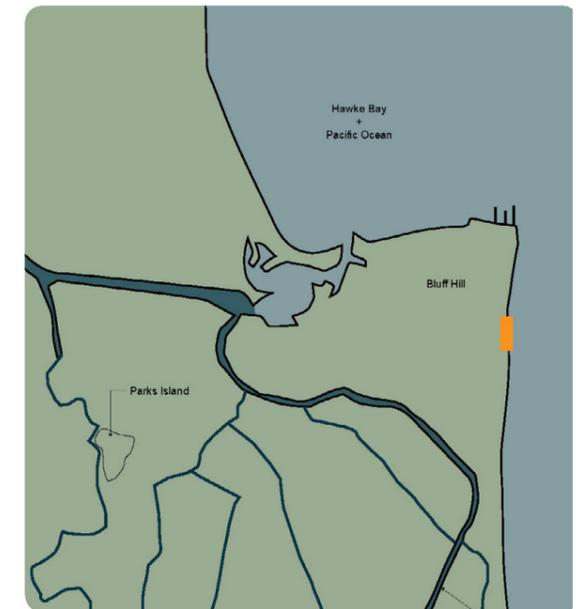
This was a challenging project for local contracting industry, but the construction was implemented well through clear documentation and effective project management, with specialist input provided for elements such as the pou and shelters.



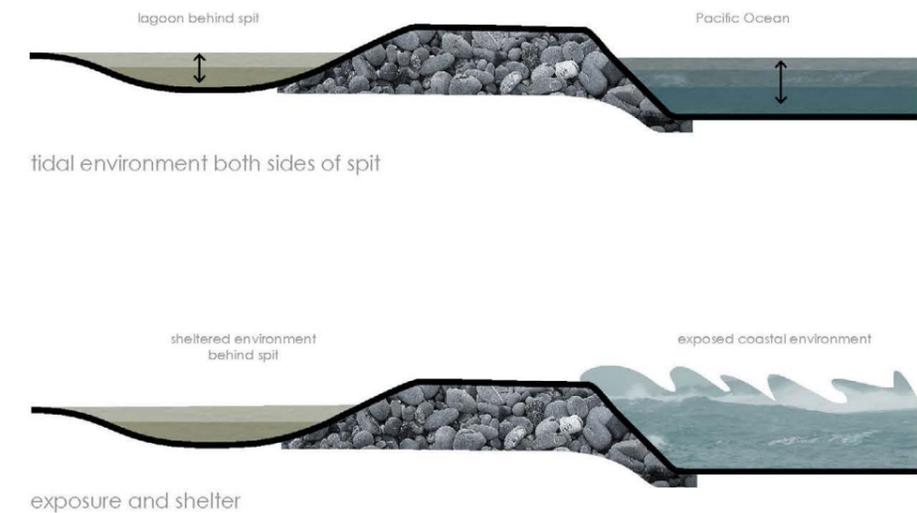
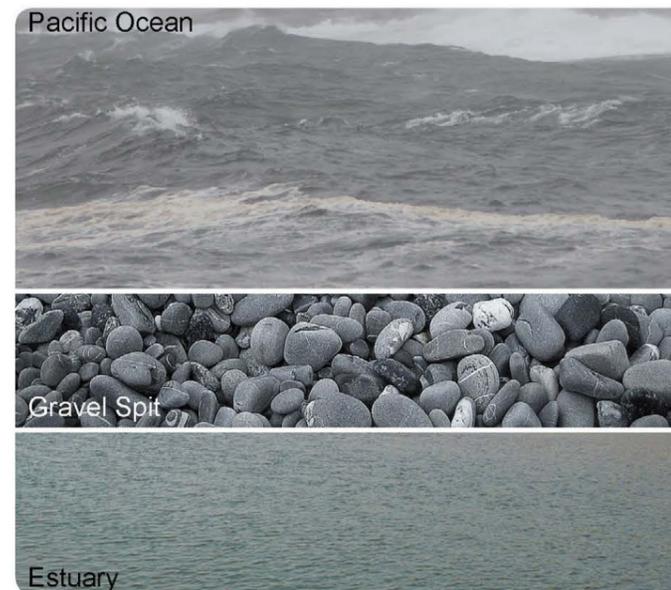
1865
Site is a gravel spit, connecting to Scinde Island and protecting the estuary behind from the Pacific Ocean. A lagoon sits in the eddy created by the spit and Scinde Island
Tutaekuri River flows to Ahuriri Lagoon and ocean

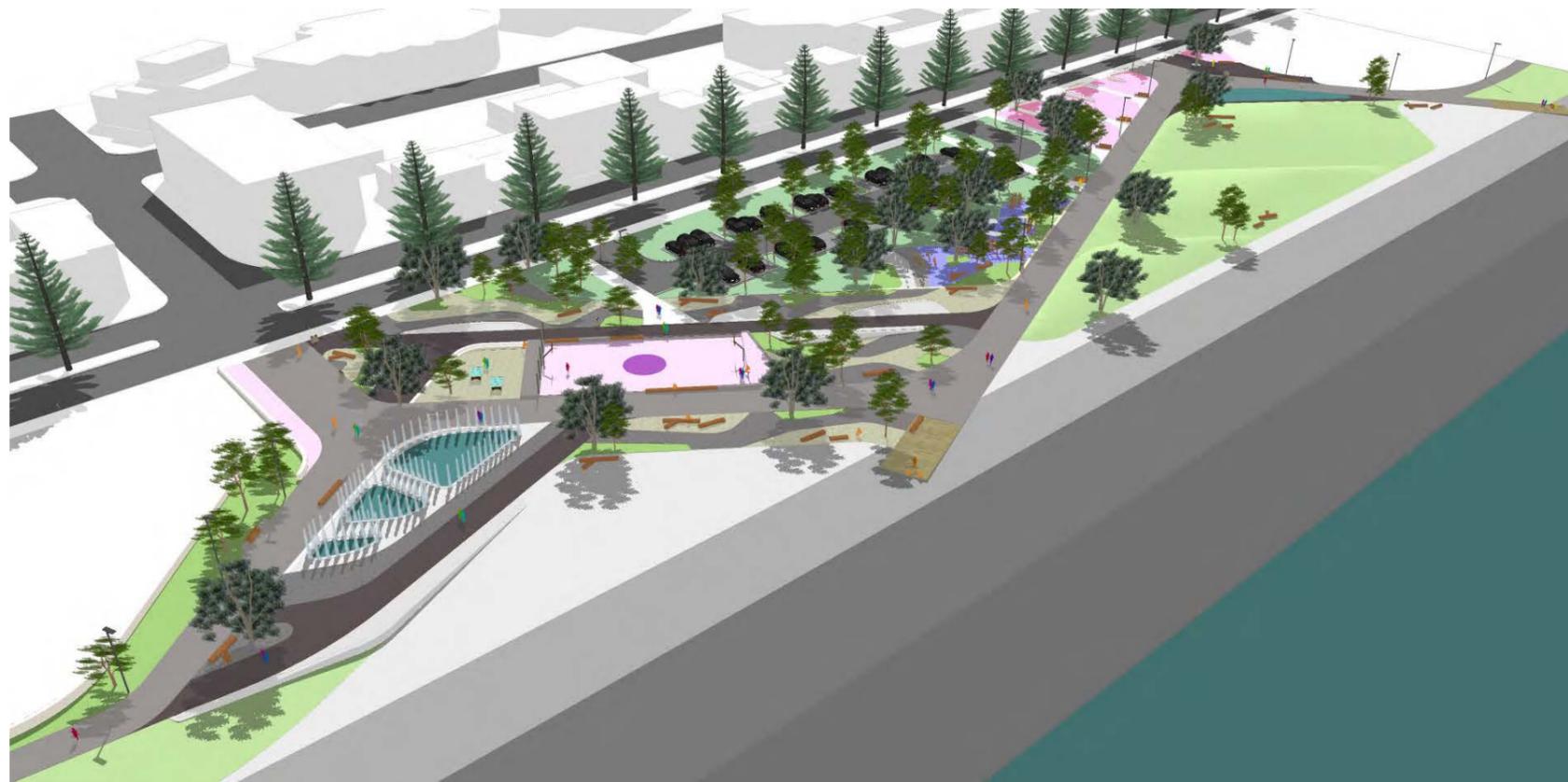
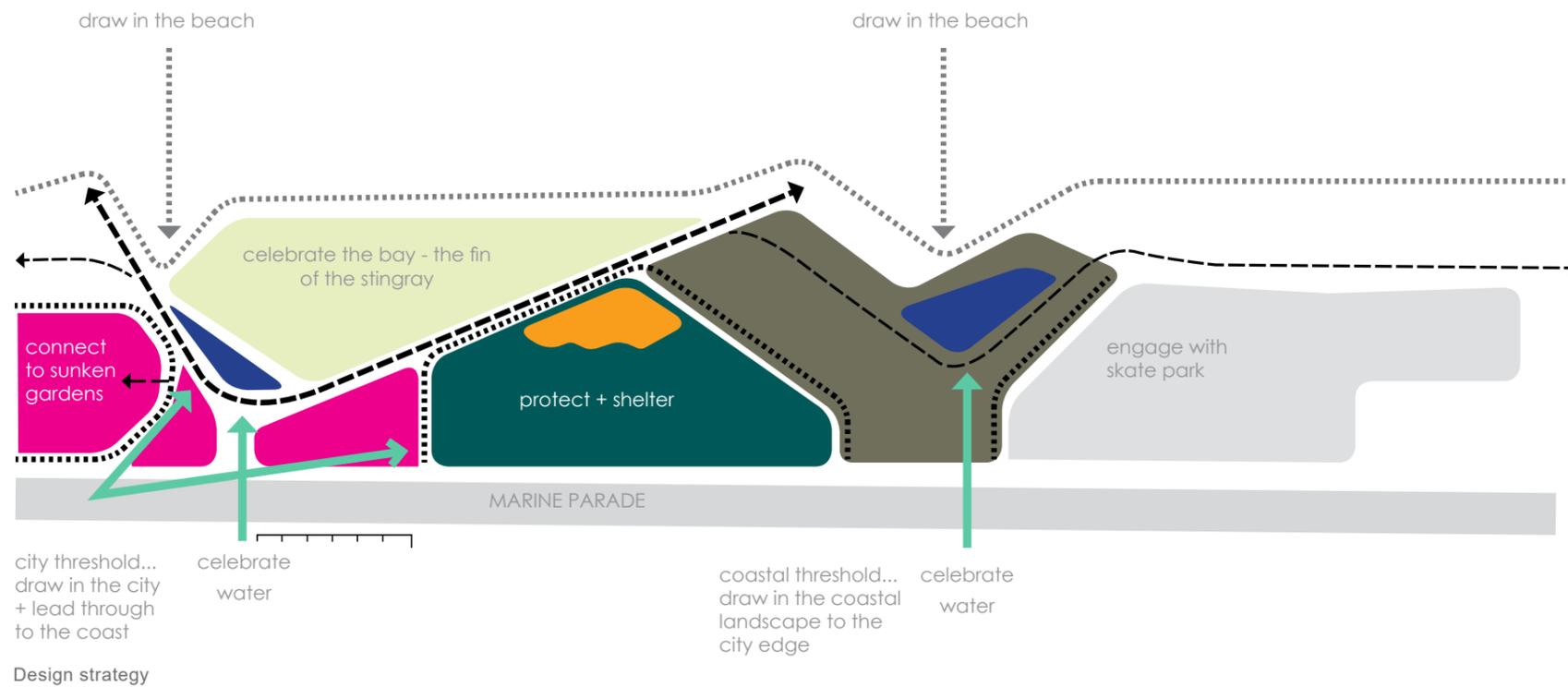


1928
Reclamation behind the spit, achieved through controlling the Tutaekuri River's flow allows for expansion of Napier.



1965, 100 years on
Reclamation through control of waterways, and raising of land through earthquakes has replaced the estuarine environment with flat land used for agriculture and expansion of Napier City, the spit on which the site sits becomes a high point between plains and the Pacific Ocean.





Site overview - from the south east

7. Plantsmanship

The planting character reflects the rugged and exposed coastal environment to the East, transitioning to the shelter of the estuarine environment to the West. Central to the planting scheme was the retention of existing Pohutukawa and celebrating their windswept form, and tying in to sunken gardens adjacent

8. Environmental Stewardship

Whole-of-life maintenance underpins the design. Street furniture and hard landscape features and artistic elements have been rendered in hardy, proven materials with a low level of required ongoing maintenance. At every opportunity, we made use of local, readily available materials such as crushed river aggregates, macrocarpa timbers, limestone aggregate, river rounds and native plant material sourced locally and appropriate to the challenging setting.

9. Significance and Influence

The site is designed in harmony with desire lines and primary movement routes, while drawing attention to key landmarks. This approach has been of primary importance through all stages of design, with all other design moves hanging off this site-wide structure which encourages easy, comfortable and safe flow through the park.

A key design philosophy has been to celebrate coastal processes in the approach to design of the park's ocean edge. Napier's gravel beach is highly mobile as the result of strong wave action and seasonal change. Gravels are at times piled on the upper slopes, with driftwood and logs strewn across the upper slopes, creating opportunities for exploring and play. At other times, gravels are scoured away from the slopes, with the Mahia and Kidnappers decks transformed into viewing promontories.

The park celebrates the experience of being in this dynamic, challenging, edge landscape rather than protecting people from it. Where structures are provided, these create a social space with moderate shelter, while never excluding the qualities of the wider environment completely.

The strength of the built project is in the restrained nature of detailing and material choice, focussing greater detail, tactility and reflection of narrative in areas of high use.



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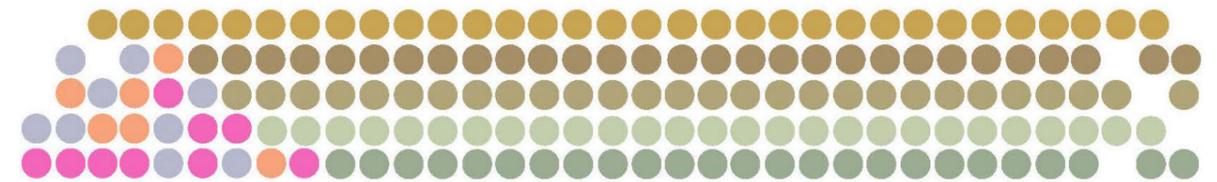
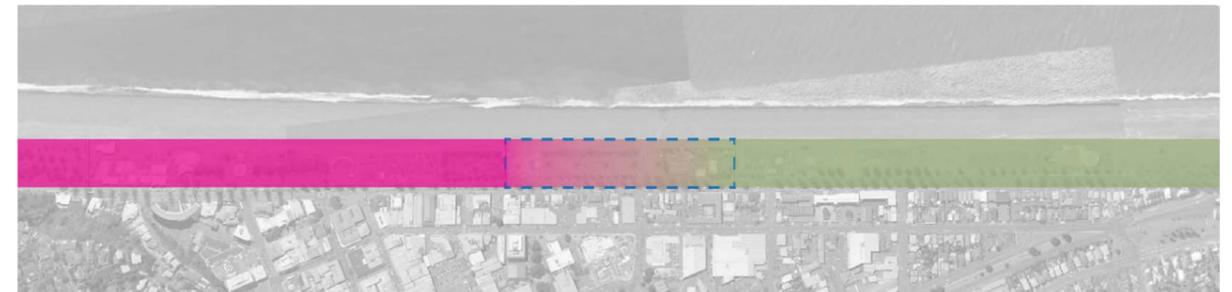
Landscape Design: PARK Parks
MARINE PARADE, NAPIER

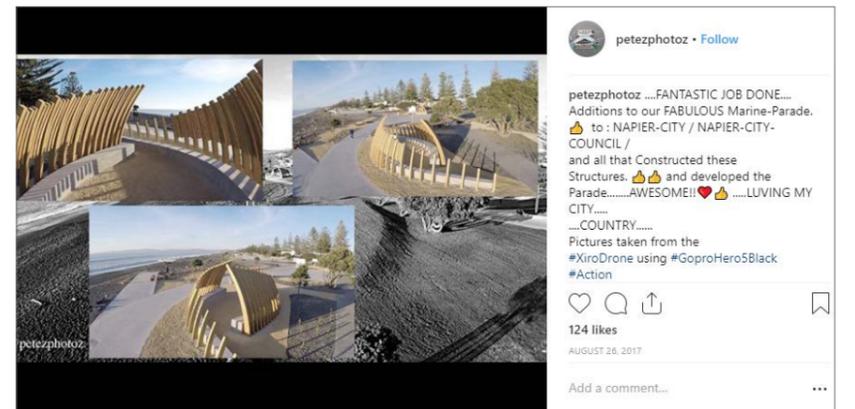
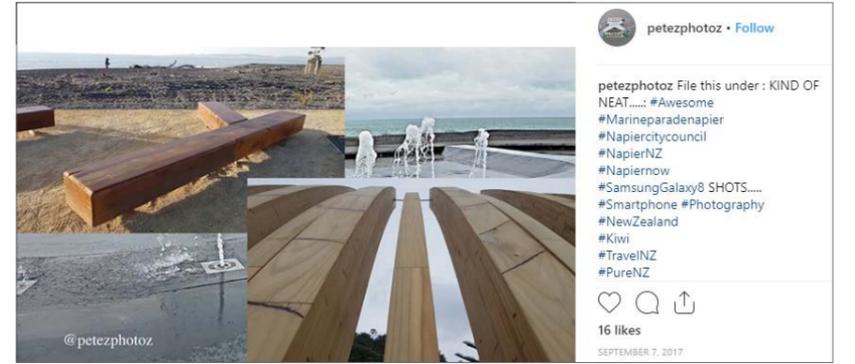
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Vision and Delivery



Planting Strategy





Project Information

Client:	Napier City Council Antoinette Campbell
Boffa Miskell Team:	Nik Kneale – Landscape Architect, Design Lead Michael Hawes – Landscape Architect, Project Manager Dylan Robinson – Landscape Architect Yoko Tanaka – Landscape Architect Daniel Whatnall – Landscape Architect Heather Wilkins – Landscape Architect Kieran Dove – Landscape Architect
Project Partners:	Paris Magdalinos Architects – Marine Land Architect, Lead Consultant Jacob Scott – Artist and Architect
Project Date:	2015 - 2017
Awards:	2018 NZIA Gisborne/Hawkes Bay Award Winner - Planning and Urban Design

