

23 October 2006

**Re: Design Brief for Frank Kitts Park redevelopment**

This submission is from the Wellington Architectural Centre, a group which represents both professional and non-professionals interested in architecture and design, and in the promotion of good design in Wellington.

**1) Support for the proposal**

The Architectural Centre gives general support for the Design Brief for Frank Kitts Park redevelopment. We do however have a number of points to raise about specific aspects of the brief.

**2) Chinese Garden**

With regard to the Chinese Garden we consider that issues of the courtyard, the handling of wind, enclosure, sequencing of spaces, seating and vertical and horizontal views from both inside and outside will need careful consideration and the brief needs to emphasis these aspects more. While we support the relocation of the Chinese garden from Waitangi Park to Frank Kitts Park, we think a more historically relevant - and climatically more suitable location (away from wind and salt spray) - would be in the former Chinatown in Frederick and Hainings Streets. In addition to the relevant historic connection the limited size of sites might support a series of small enclosed urban gardens which would not cause adverse security issues such as those which will occur with a Frank Kitts Park location.

**3) Sense of Place**

We strongly endorse the sentiment that "Spatial definition, and the location of trees, planting and "hard" landscape elements such as paving and street furniture, should reflect that this is an urban waterfront, and an urban rather than a natural landscape" (4.2).

**4) Edges, connections and views**

We suggest that a strategy for high quality pedestrian connection between Lambton Quay and the harbour along the alignment of Willeston Street is critical and strongly support the brief explicitly stating the need for a pedestrian bridge. We also consider that the sightlines and horizontal and vertical views between the city, the park and Len Lye's "Water Whirler" be considered. Lighting at night will also be key.

We would also point to the uncomfortable footpath edge between the park and Jervois Quay. This area, and the menagerie of routes for vehicular traffic (the route around the wharf, the entrance/exit to underground carparking, the route between the Museum of Wellington City and Sea and the Events Centre), are in serious need of attention. These traffic issues need to be reconfigured with priority securely given to foot traffic, and the removal of the wharf route for cars.

**5) Other issues**

**a) Traffic issues**

In addition to those points raised above in 4), we recommend that maintaining the different modes of transport (e.g. pedestrian, skateboard, rollerblade and cycling) along the waterfront is taken into consideration in the new design of the park. Formal and informal paths, and a full range of materials are also relevant to consider here.



the architectural centre inc.  
PO Box 24178 Wellington

b) Dragon Boat and Waka Storage

We see this redevelopment of the park to strength the potential of some of the existing aspects of the park. An example of this would be the dragon boat and waka storage under the raised area of the park. This re-development provides an opportunity to re-orient the storage and to provide access on the wall adjacent to the lagoon, rather than that facing the sea

c) Ampitheatre

We do not consider that the ampitheatre at the Frank Kitts Park end of the Events Centre is at all successful. We look forward to its removal. This requirement needs to be made explicit in the brief.

**4) Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Design Brief for Frank Kitts Park. Public Consultation is an important part of ensuring the relevance of Wellington's urban form. We support the proposed brief but would like to see issues as outlined above made more explicit in the brief

Yours sincerely

Christine McCarthy  
President  
The Architectural Centre