

27 November 2018

Swan Lane/Garrett Street Project
Freepost WCC (123)
Attention: Gerald Bunt
Wellington City Council
P.O. Box 2199
Wellington
ud.swangarrett@wcc.govt.nz

Re: Swan Lane/Garrett Street Project

This submission is from the Architectural Centre. We are an incorporated society dating from 1946, which represents both professionals and non-professionals interested in the promotion of good design.

We have the following comments:

1. This Cuba Street area has slow moving traffic and an established pedestrian culture where most pedestrians prioritise themselves over cars. This attitude is core to the success of the place and must be encouraged.



2. The culture of Cuba is at odds with an aesthetic gentrification, and we encourage this rawness being retained. Cities should represent diversity and not a uniform aesthetic. There still remain quite gritty lanes in Melbourne, and Dunedin's street art might be another example. Retaining asphalt (which has often exhausted all its toxicity by this stage), rather than digging this up for the disappointments of terracota paving, has environmental as well as aesthetic benefits.
3. There are numerous informal pathways accessible to pedestrians and



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cyclists, even if they are not legally so. Legally formalising these through easements is probably the single most important factor in the long term viability of the character of this area.

4. We note that Garrett Street is yet to be made available for pedestrians and cyclists via an extension through to Victoria Street. We urge the council to establish this public access route.
5. The two car parks between Bute St and Garrett St are divided by a fence. While there is a slim gap that pedestrians can traverse we encourage council to achieve the replacement of this fence with a row of bollards to increase permeability for cyclists and pedestrians.
6. The link between Marion St and the Swan Lane carpark is another route which requires an easement if one does not exist already.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Swan Lane/Garrett Street area. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nāku iti noa nā



Christine McCarthy
President, Architectural Centre