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Waitakere Central Library/Unitec Fact Sheet

1. Partnership Philosophy

In October 2002 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Unitec and Waitakere City. This acknowledges:

- our joint commitment to people building through education
- our shared resolve to enhance the prosperity of Waitakere communities and business
- the vision we each have for a sustainable future

2. Size/scope

3600 square metres over three levels, replacing the old library of 500 square metres.

3. Costs

Approved overall project budget - \$38 million
The Council's share – \$15 million

4. Architects

Architectus and Athfield Architects

5. Builders

Fletcher Construction with an average of 200 people on site, although at times reaching 300.

6. General Description

Waitakere Central is a modern three storey library, learning centre and Citizen's Advice Bureau, facing a five storey Unitec learning complex that wraps around the existing campus building. The new Unitec campus includes flexible teaching spaces with purpose-built computer and bioscience labs, a high-tech, 180-seat lecture theatre and a student common room and kitchen facilities.

Three public plazas are part of the project:

1. A forecourt/colonnade and seating area in front of the library overlooking Waitakere Lane. The space provides a visual and physical extension of the library and is the sunniest area on site. Seating is designed to visually extend the library beyond its glass wall. Deciduous trees provide shade through summer and allow sun through in winter.

2. Ratanui Plaza is the major area of public space providing a sunny space in the afternoon and allows access between Unitec, Waitakere Central Library and Henderson Main Street.

3. An entry plaza to the south west of the library, from Great North Road. Wind and sun shelter is provided by evergreens.

A car park building will wrap around the eastern end of the library and the access lane for Great North Rd shops has been maintained

Positioning of the library has allowed 357 Arcade to maintain its profile and walkways and verandas allow pedestrians to walk undercover from Great North Rd through the arcade to access the complex.

Car park building - The car park consists of six levels and a basement. The basement, which can only be accessed by swipe card, will house dedicated Library and Unitec spaces as well as privately leased spaces. Five levels of public parking will operate on an automatic payment machine system and one level is reserved for private parking. Spaces available on site in the building as well as in Trading Place and Waitakere Lane total 290.

Café – A Gloria Jean's café of 100 square metres opens onto the entry plaza, near the main library entrance.

7. Services

Citizen's Advice Bureau

Level One

- *Learn IT Online* learning centre with 40 computers run by Waitakere Libraries for Unitec students.
- Shop
- Children's and teens areas
- Fiction
- Magazines
- Large print and audio books

Level Two

- Non-fiction, including an integrated Unitec bookstock (only available for borrowing by Unitec students, but available for all to use in the library)
- Multicultural and ESOL collections
- Audio/visual items eg CDs, DVDs and videos
- Reference room, including Pukapuka (Maori) collection
- Genealogy resources
- Heritage suite which will house the city's documentary heritage collections. It includes a cool store for photographic negatives and a temperature and humidity controlled storage area for documents and books including the JT Diamond archive and the library's precious glass plate negative collections, oral history archives and other heritage collections. There will also be a small exhibition space. We have been fortunate to have secured a grant of \$130,000 from the Lotteries Grants Board to cover the cost of a special museum quality state-of-the-art sprinkler system to protect our heritage collections.

Level Three

- Library Support Services
- Unitec Reference and study areas

8. Art Works

Project Arts Manager – Naomi McCleary

Lead artists – Kate Wells and Matthew von Sturmer

- Exterior structural columns at front of building will be encompassed by sculptural forms which represent Hinaki (eel traps) and wine barrels
- Pou Whenua, an exterior waka sculpture situated in Ratanui Plaza
- Light box art installation at issues desk
- Bronze handrail inserts reflecting local Waitakere flora up the main stairway
- Te Henga boulders configured to represent the Matariki constellation in the public courtyard

9. Environmental Features

The library incorporates the latest in sustainable design features with huge windows at the western (Ratanui Street) end, for natural light. A sloping north facing roof will contain a solar water heating system. The building has a north/south orientation,

running lengthways between Ratanui Street and Trading Place to make the most of the sun for light and heating. It is designed to minimise water and electricity use with dual flush toilets and flow restrictors. A mixed mode ventilation system maximises energy efficiency while maintaining a comfortable environment. Exterior rain gardens will filter storm water.

10. Dates

Late 2002 – Council arrived at a partnership arrangement with Unitec to develop a library complex and tertiary facility with shared carpark

April 2003 – Award of contract to design team led by Architectus and Athfield Architects

July 2003 – Preliminary design presented to Council

December 2003 – Developed design signed off

August 2004 – Construction commenced

March 2006 – Completion

(a more detailed timeline is in a separate document)