

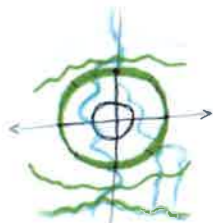
The Project:

Security and shelter are basic human rights. It is human instinct to seek refuge and familiar space following times of upheaval, chaos and loss. This project acknowledges not only the recovery process, but also the existence of a diverse populace effected by recent events and the need for universal recovery.

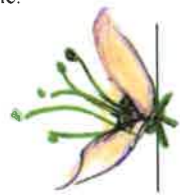
The aim of this project is to create a place which aids recovery, softens a post-earthquake landscape and results in a new 500m² space while being inclusive of a diverse community.

The design is inspired from interpretations of values, culture, philosophies and spaces from within the Europe and Russia region.

Theories & ideas of Tranquillity:



A Snapshot of time: Geographic points and natural landform guide layout and profile.



Meandering Filaments: Floral form inspires meadow structure with asymmetrical layout.

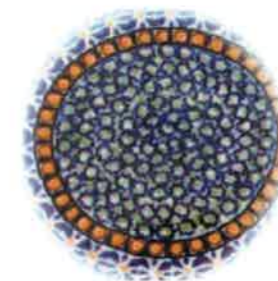
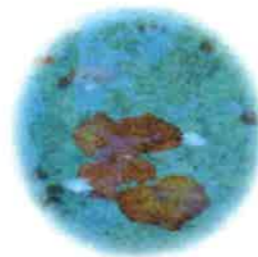


Artisan Patterns: Pottery design patterns provide ideas for central forms.

Actions. Colours. Materials. Feelings.

- Calm.
- Harmony.
- Quietness.
- Inner peace.
- Stability.
- Personal space.
- A place to unwind.
- Value of life and of family.
- Sense of place - heritage.
- Connection to nature.
- Sheltered space, open to sky.
- Soft forms and colours.
- Relaxing blues, whites, purples, greens
- Softening warm tones - wood and earth
- A place to be true to inner self.

A place to get lost in a daydream.



Water: A Channel and Passage

As water is central to life and relaxation it is a central focus of this design. Water provides connection: Cities are located along rivers, water links these communities. The flow of water marks the passing of time through movement and form. Water evokes calm, brings cleansing newness (baptism).

The Arts: Creative Heart and Soul:

A region with a rich heritage in arts, science and philosophy. The origins of western thinking, philosophical theory and art development. In an area home to diverse artisans, writers, musicians and creative theorists; the arts play a vital role in defining culture and creating atmosphere. Artisan form and literary writings inspire design and inform theory.

Time: Past and Present

Europe is a living juxtaposition of place and time. Old and new; fast and slow; Heritage and development. Design should honour the past but not be trapped by it.

To move through time and place in peace and also provide provision to stop and pause, to simply be.

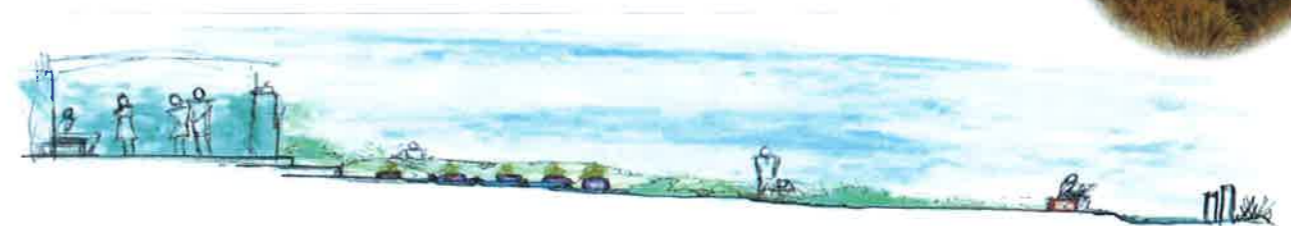
Mountains to Sea: Strong Landform

As with New Zealand, the Europe/Russia region is characterised by topography. A parallel is drawn here, showing the transition from mountains to plain to sea, as seen in both the Canterbury Plains and across greater Europe.

Meadows and Fields: Softening Hard Places

Grasslands, meadows, fields and steppe form a core to European regional heritage and identity. They provide harmonious spaces. Grasslands are wildlife havens and provide an easily accessible link between man and nature. This design draws inspiration from the meadowland and its plant forms and promotes the idea of grassed space as a place in which to unwind.

Design Inspiration:



Sketch showing proposed ground plane: reflects movement through space from high to low; mountains to sea.

“I walk on the slope of a hill gone green. Grass, little flowers in the grass, as in a children’s illustration. The misty sky’s already turning blue. A view of other hills unfolds in silence..”



The Design...

Perceptions of passing time: Providing a place to meander, to daydream and to reconnect with life and beauty.

The Bay

Three perspex/glass vases contain water-loving plants. These are placed to provide connection with the Avon River system and tie the design into the wider river-side area.



Meadow Rooms

Curved areas form naturally enclosed spaces, edged with taller grasses, perennials and wild flowers. Meadow grasses establish easily, are low maintenance, and provide soft surfaces and gentle colour. Central pathways and access strips can be mown and edges left to develop; reducing maintenance, providing greater intimacy, and enhancing wildlife habitat, while supplying year round interest. Planting should be softly coloured and textured with whites, sky blues and light violet flowers. Golden grasses provide warm accents. Scented plants will revive and refresh.



Pathways can be formed from recycled materials. Brick and wood for edging and crushed gravel can be compacted to form central paths. The courtyard, alcove and side aisle areas can be made with a mosaic of concrete/stone slabs and pressed stones.



Trees provide shade and shelter. Trees should be broad leaved and of medium height, with gentle spread, white flowers and soft textured leaves. Trees should also be suitable to grow in containers to enable future relocation.



To enter the site visitors pass through a pergola into a raised courtyard overlooking the garden, a pass by a written invitation to tranquillity. A welcome message: Encouraging visitors to literally lie back and stare at the clouds.



ENTRANCE

EXIT

0 5 10 m



Pergola structures, site bridges and alcove framing should be built using recycled wood. This is currently readily available and adds a natural aged character to the site. As this is a temporary site, structures should be joined (i.e. bolted) in a modular style allowing for easy removal and reassembly. Frames should be self supporting and be used as trellising for potted plants and climbers.



Side Aisle

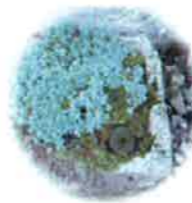
Recycled window frames provide viewpoints out into garden. This passage is narrowed with planter boxes, filled with scented flowers, and provides sheltered seating for individuals or pairs. Group seating is available in alcove.



'The Rosarian'

Inspired by floral patterns and paying homage to fallen heritage elements of Christchurch, this focal feature forms a meeting point and a source of water interaction. The main feature is a simple shallow dish which collects rain water. A ring of coloured gravels arranged in a floral mosaic pattern, surround the central ring. Large stones allow stepped access enabling interaction with water.

The gravel bed links the north and south portions of the channel and potted urns encircle ring path.



Terrace Walk

Corner Alcove

Rill and Channel System

The water system utilises re-circulated rainwater. Water is harvested from corner alcove roof and passes along a shallow polythene lined, gravel filled, channel before reaching a collection point north end of site where it can be re-pumped to start of cycle.

Water represents life, and provides additional non-visual experience; relaxing sounds, textures are created. The stream also enhances the journey aspect of site and visitors follow stream in natural progression through garden.



Northern end of site and river connection. As the lowest point of the site, this area links the garden to the river. Gravel and sand form an artificial beach marking the end of the journey.



View of Rosarian from side pergola. The pergola provides additional access points to the main garden and creates a wind break to keep garden calm and sheltered from prevailing winds.



The Rosarian - Night sketch. Low voltage, LED lighting can be installed into gravel beds (Rosarian and water channels) to provide additional visual interest and ambient lighting for enhanced amenity.



Terrace steps and water channel emerging from entrance courtyard. This path follows through to the Rosarian and on into inner garden. This is a transitional zone between more communal areas and the individual.

"...This moment reigns as far as the eye can reach.
One of those earthly moments invited to linger."

Form excerpts from 'Moments' by Wislawa Szymborska

