

Background Information/ Brief:

As a result of the 2010 and 2011 Earthquakes, the people of Christchurch have physically and mentally been affected; losing loved ones, homes, jobs and important places among other things.

Working with "Healthy Christchurch" and "Greening the Rubble", six 500m<sup>2</sup> spaces will be created on demolition sites throughout the city before being moved to permanent sites in the "Avon - Otakaro River Park". These will reflect the culturally diverse nature of Christchurch, in which many communities exist and contribute to it's cultural fabric.

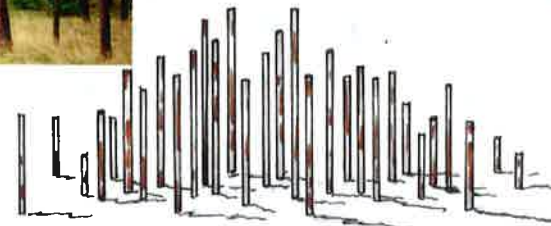
These spaces have been designed to be tranquil and familiar to people from regions all over the world, to provide some respite from the tough times caused by the earthquakes and demonstrate a glimmer of hope for the future of Christchurch as we highlight our ability to rebuild and rise above the darkness.

Extensive research has been carried out, first in groups discussing the wider context of the sites focusing on the cultural, philosophical and spiritual traditions and beliefs of the six communities, with this presentation focussing on the community of Europe and Russia.

This step is an important part of the recovery process not only for these cultural groups, but for the people of Christchurch as a whole.



Sketch showing entrance into site which is lined with dense vegetation. This provides an enclosed feeling in which you are not dwarfed by high vegetation. This space opens completely once you venture around the corner.



'Recycled forest' screening diffuses views to limit visibility through into the enclosed spaces. Along the edges of the open/public area within the site, these direct the viewflow towards the Avon River at the North of the site.



The circular shape of the seat and space is repeated throughout the site to represent the rosary beads used by Catholics. In Europe, Roman Catholicism is the main religion, with 35% of all people claiming to be part of the faith.

The circular seat represents the tradition of certain counties in Europe named "Wigilia", in which a place at the dining table is set at the Christmas Eve meal for the 'unexpected guest'. This may be for someone who doesn't have anywhere to go, a lost relative or even spirits of deceased family members or Jesus.



This seating area highlights the contrast between the sweeping grass plains and the rugged mountain ranges. The Avon River can be seen in the background.



Section A :



Lacework reflecting the intricate cultures, traditions and beliefs of the region that intertwine.



Scale 1:100

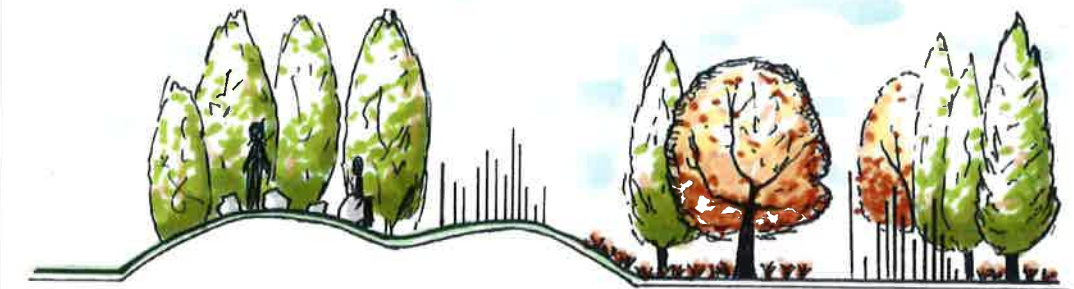
Section showing view looking East showing the detailed lacework cutout of the reclaimed metal screens.



The Eastern wall of the site is shaped to reflect the mountain terrain of the region while replicating the effect of a sunrise and the bringing of light and life to the site everyday. This is in connection with the ideas of Eastern European artist Jan Matejko (1838 - 1893), who wanted to show the regions "bright his tory in the dark days".

Desired effect seen in a built environment.

Section B:



Scale 1:100

This section expresses the different levels and spaces created within the site. The repeated use of varied terrain and spaces reflects that many of the traditions, history and regional consciousness are rooted in geography. Ideas and ways of life moved through the continent, creating the 'melting pot' of culture which Europe and Russia are today.



**Design Intent:**

I want the space to be a place in which people feel safe, secure and relaxed while highlighting the natural beauty, cultural, spiritual and philosophical traditions and beliefs of the Europe and Russia region.

It should be a place which is not only familiar and tranquil to Europeans and Russians, but is also an inviting place for other community groups to explore and feel comfortable in. It can be said that it needs to be a place for everyone.

The space should be constructed where possible using recycled and salvaged elements in order to provide a more sustainable approach. It should also be able to be disassembled and transported from a temporary site to part of the permanent "Avon - Otakaro River Park".

**Design Description:**

This proposed design is centred around family, providing enclosed private spaces for them to interact with each other, within a public area.

Each space is of differing size in order to create spaces ranging for those on a lunchbreak, right through to a large extended family group, reflecting the importance and close-knit nature of families in Europe and Russia. Each has a place and is welcome in the site. These are defined by vegetation, levels, materials and screening elements which diffuse views through to areas.

Having these private spaces allows users to decide how much interaction they have with strangers

Elements within the space are relatively crisp and clean, in order to reflect religious values surrounding purity encompassed within the region.

The site measures 16.6m x 30m.

**Design Materials:**

