



□ A preview of Te Wharehou o Waikaremoana, designed by award-winning architecture firm Tennent and Brown. The project will adhere to the same eco-principles as Te Kura Whare, the Tuhoe headquarters at Taneatua.

Lake centre plan unveiled

THE first image depicting the design plan for the new visitors centre to be built at Lake Waikaremoana has been released.

Te Wharehou o Waikaremoana is a project instigated by Ngai Tuhoe and the Department of Conservation to serve visitors to Lake Waikaremoana and the Great Walk.

Hugh Tennent from award-winning Wellington-based architecture firm Tennent and Brown is the lead architect for the project.

The design incorporates a visitor's centre with ticketing, interpretation, cafe and kitchen, administration, retail and a wananga space.

Mr Tennent said the design was reflective of the lake and the surrounding geomorphology, incorporating a draped roof supported by engraved, precast

concrete panels.

The panels were reflective of the massive limestone slabs at Onepoto Bay.

Taking the region's heavy rainfall into account, the precipitation from the roof would cascade into lake stones down cables, and flow into a wetland.

Carved pou representing the hapu and tipuna of Ngai Tuhoe are 6.5m above ground level and will have patterns from Tuhoe artists sandblasted into them.

The project is single-storey, and at its highest point it is 5m above finished floor level.

The roof area of the building is 520 square metres and the

enclosed space is 313 square metres.

Mr Tennent said the building had been designed to be assembled quickly using prefabricated elements, including concrete panels on precast foundations and floor and wall panels.

"This will allow the roof to go on in the shortest possible time. The design is primarily light-weight to allow for separation

from the moist environment, and moving the least amount of materials to the remote site."

The structure was also designed to accommodate the load from any snowfalls at the high elevation of Waikaremoana.

The project is being undertaken

using the principles of the Living Building and Community Challenge, which Mr Tennent said was a ground-breaking approach to sustainability, and was used by Tuhoe for Te Kura Whare at Taneatua.

Mr Tennent said the challenge aims to transform how people think about their built environment, providing a framework for achieving energy, water and waste neutral buildings and communities.

"The building is conceived to be constructed with minimal site time, and therefore implements maximum prefabrication to mitigate the risks and costs of building remotely."

Where feasible the building would use locally-sourced materials and labour, he said.

"This relates to what is available in the local region. The design team is in touch with Wairoa, Hawke's Bay and East Coast suppliers and consultants."

Mr Tennent said local contractors and subcontractors would be prioritised during the procurement stages to support the local economy and minimise transport.

The new centre will be managed by Tuhoe, and is a jointly-funded partnership between Tuhoe and the Department of Conservation.

It is expected to be completed at the end of next year.

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