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Urban design

Urban design has been incorporated into the Cambridge section, to ensure it fits into the natural and community environment. Examples are visible on bridge walls and at significant points along the project.

Artworks at the Southern interchange, Karapiro Gully and Northern interchange tell the story of Cambridge and the environment. They help connect road users with the history and cultural significance of the area. These artworks are complemented by story boards which appear on shared paths along the project telling the history of the area and the stories behind the names given to the bridges.

Southern interchange - Te Kitenga mai o Maungatautari

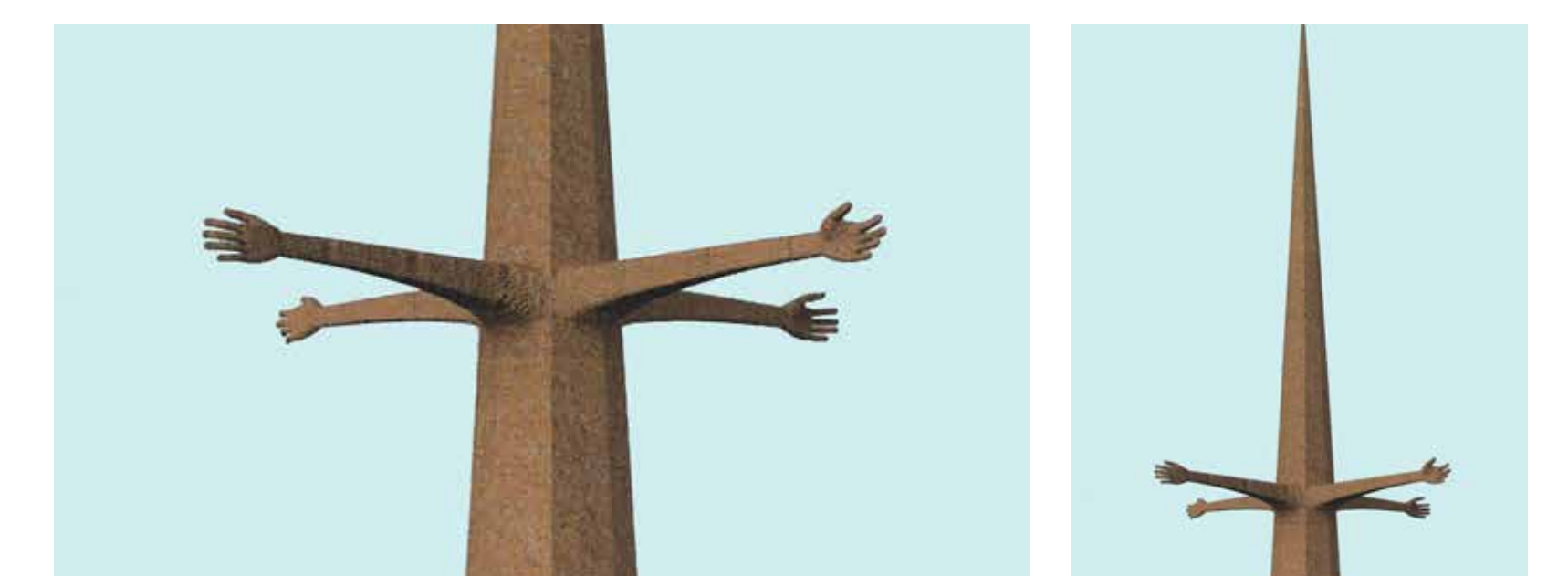
The name of the sculpture signifies the important status that Maungatautari Mountain has to the Tainui people. Rakataura, the tohunga (priest) of the Tainui waka saw "the mountain suspended in the clouded mists," and the name Maungatautari was gifted. While people are travelling they will capture the significance and beauty of the maunga which is represented in the name Te Kitengamaio Maungatautari, "the picturesque view of Maungatautari."



Karapiro Gully - Niu pole - Te Rongo tai

The sculpture (niu pole) is erected beside the Horotiu paa bridge in remembrance of this important community of paa sites located along this gully.

This 'Niu Pole' is a celebration of Ngati Hauhau and Ngati Koroki Kahukura and what makes us unique. 'Niu' were originally small sticks used by tohunga for the purposes of divination. In the 19th Century 'niu' became the focal point of Pai Marire ritual, some believe an adaptation of ship masts or flagpoles raised by the British and Settler Militia to proclaim occupation of a new settlement.



Wiremu Tamihana is said to have overseen proceedings during the erection of the niu at Kuranui. The outstretched arms reach out and carry the karakia (prayers) to the people of the four winds, and proclaim the resilience of Ngati Hauhau and Ngati Koroki to the world at large.

Northern interchange - Maara kai

The sculpture named Maara kai (food gardens), celebrates the distinctive and unique feature of this area, namely the prevalence of food crops and gardens. The sculpture is in the form of a Timo which was a gardening tool used mainly by women. The full proverb of Tawhiao, the second Maaori King, is outlined in his waiata "Te Koopuu Maania o Kirikiriroa me oona maara kai" ("Across the smooth belly of Kirikiriroa its gardens bursting with the fullness of good things").



Victoria Road Interchange

The Victoria Road interchange is the gateway into Cambridge and aims to foster a sense of place and arrival. Structured rows of exotic trees planted beside the on and off ramps provide a transition between Victoria Road and the planting of the expressway embankments.

Paving on the bridge walls at the Victoria Road interchange references the geology and history of the area. The colours represent the different soil layers, the blue the waterways. The area was also referred to by King Taawhaio as the "washbowl of sorrow."

