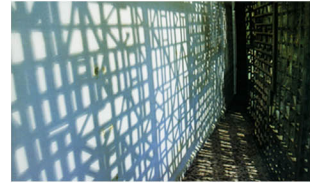




HDT RESEARCH HOUSING NEEDS FOR ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Following our success in the State Housing Design Competition last year, we were engaged by HNZA to continue our research into the design issues relating to new migrant groups & extended families. We reviewed case studies of social housing initiatives for different ethnicities and minority groups from Australasia and beyond, & conducted research into specific cultural, social and religious requirements.

Our research has taken us into personal contact with people from nine different countries (including African, Chinese, Indian and Middle Eastern) who are now making New Zealand their home. It has been a challenging and at times humbling experience as we have been warmly welcomed into their homes to share their hospitality, their in-jera, stories and clarify issues of housing and lifestyle from their perspective often through a language interpreter. Our competition house design was continuously checked for cultural sensitivity and functional layout and was well received by all ethnic groups. A draft discussion document on designing for cultural diversity is hot-off-the-press and is currently being finalised – HNZA will then decide how this information can be used to better inform all designers working on social housing in New Zealand.



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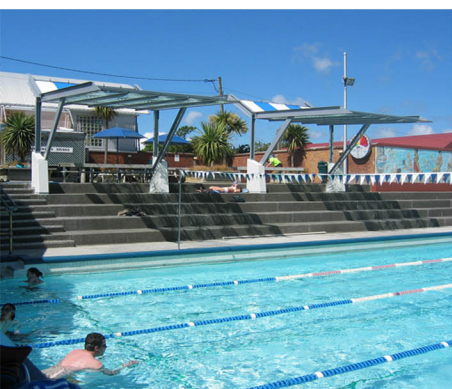
'DARKNESS FALLS' AT H2O XTREAM & FREYBERG IS HOTTER THAN EVER

A new hydroslide has been added to Upper Hutt's H2O Xtream swimming complex. The slide is a 65m long ride in a pitch black tube- given the title of 'Darkness Falls' for its opening in December 2005. The project was completed on-time within a very tight timeframe in order for the new slide to be used for the waterslide 'World Record Challenge'. Despite a gallant & determined effort, H2O's World Record team were unable to complete the challenge, however the slide has since proven to be extremely popular with both young and old. The summer break saw HDT complete a refurbishment of the Freyberg Pool & Fitness Centre steam room and sauna, as well as new tiles for the pool & foyer. The new sauna is more than twice the size of the original and has been upgraded to include frameless glass doors, a larger stove, obache timber seating, electronically controlled fans for air flow control and a new flooring system for better hygiene. The steam room boasts a newly tiled interior with seamless Corian seating for added comfort and hygiene. Next time you are at Freyberg Pool treat yourself.



KHANDALLAH NEW WORLD has been extended, with additional retail space, more preparation and storage space and new staff facilities. A key goal of HDT's design was to give the building greater visual presence within its established suburban context, while bringing a high level of design quality to one of Wellington's more affluent suburbs.

We have treated the existing building as a neutral foil for the new architectural elements. The addition uses a crisp modern architectural language to create a fresh identity for this New World supermarket. The new extension into the carpark has been treated as a transparent volume with a strong visual connection through a glazed wall to the street and carpark. The intention here was to create a space that is both light and welcoming. Above this space are the new staff facilities, which have been treated as a closed box floating on the transparent space beneath. This strategy provides simple & distinct wall planes appropriate for the placement of signage at first floor level, while also providing privacy to staff and maximising public space at ground level.



UV PROTECTION SUNSHADES AT THORNDON SUMMER POOL

Thorndon Swimming Pool re-opened its gates for the summer of 2005/06 with two additions to its pool complex. Two new sunshades were designed by HDT as an additional feature to the existing main building and as a UV Protection shading area for both swimmers, spectators, and visitors to the pool.

The prominent steel structure highlights the existing building roof line and is cantilevered from and supported by a series of concrete plinths, which visually anchor the lightweight structure, connecting it to the existing terrace steps.

The shading enhances the summer "beach-side" feel of the pool via a patterned blue & white pvc sailing fabric. This is twinned with a real NZ outdoor experience via the sand-blasted native fern patterns on the horizontal glass, providing shade and important UV protection, enhancing the experience for all sunbathers, visitors, and swimmers alike.

