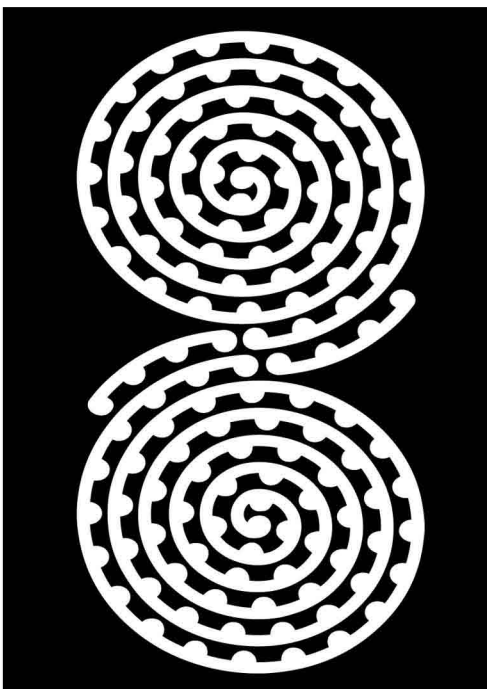


Whāriki, Nohoanga, Tau ana, Sails

Whāriki, Many of these objects were produced by a plaiting technique called whāriki. Unlike weaving, in which the warp and weft threads cross at right angles, in whāriki and related techniques the strands cross diagonally. The term 'whāriki' refers both to the plaiting technique and the mats made from it. Floor mats were of great importance before European arrival, when even the largest and most distinguished carved houses had dirt floors. Several types of whāriki were made, each with a special purpose. Coarse mats called whāriki and tūwhara were the basic floor covering. Finer sleeping mats called takapau and tūenga were spread over these. A particularly fine takapau might be woven for a high-born woman to give birth on. Coarse tāpaki mats were placed over food in a hāngi (earth oven), then covered with earth to retain the steam and heat. The same mat-weaving technique was once used to make the sails of seagoing canoes, but these, and the art of making them, disappeared once ocean transport ended several centuries ago.

Ara poutama is a stepped pattern of tukutuku panels and woven mats - symbolising genealogies and also the various levels of learning and intellectual achievement. Some say they represent the steps of transition which Tāne-o-te-wānanga ascended to the topmost realm in his quest for superior knowledge and religion.



The Pītau design draws its inspiration from creation narrative and the understanding that we are each part of an eternal and unfolding thread. From Te Kore, the realm of potential and energy, through Te Pō, the darkness, and born into Te Ao Mārama- the world of light.

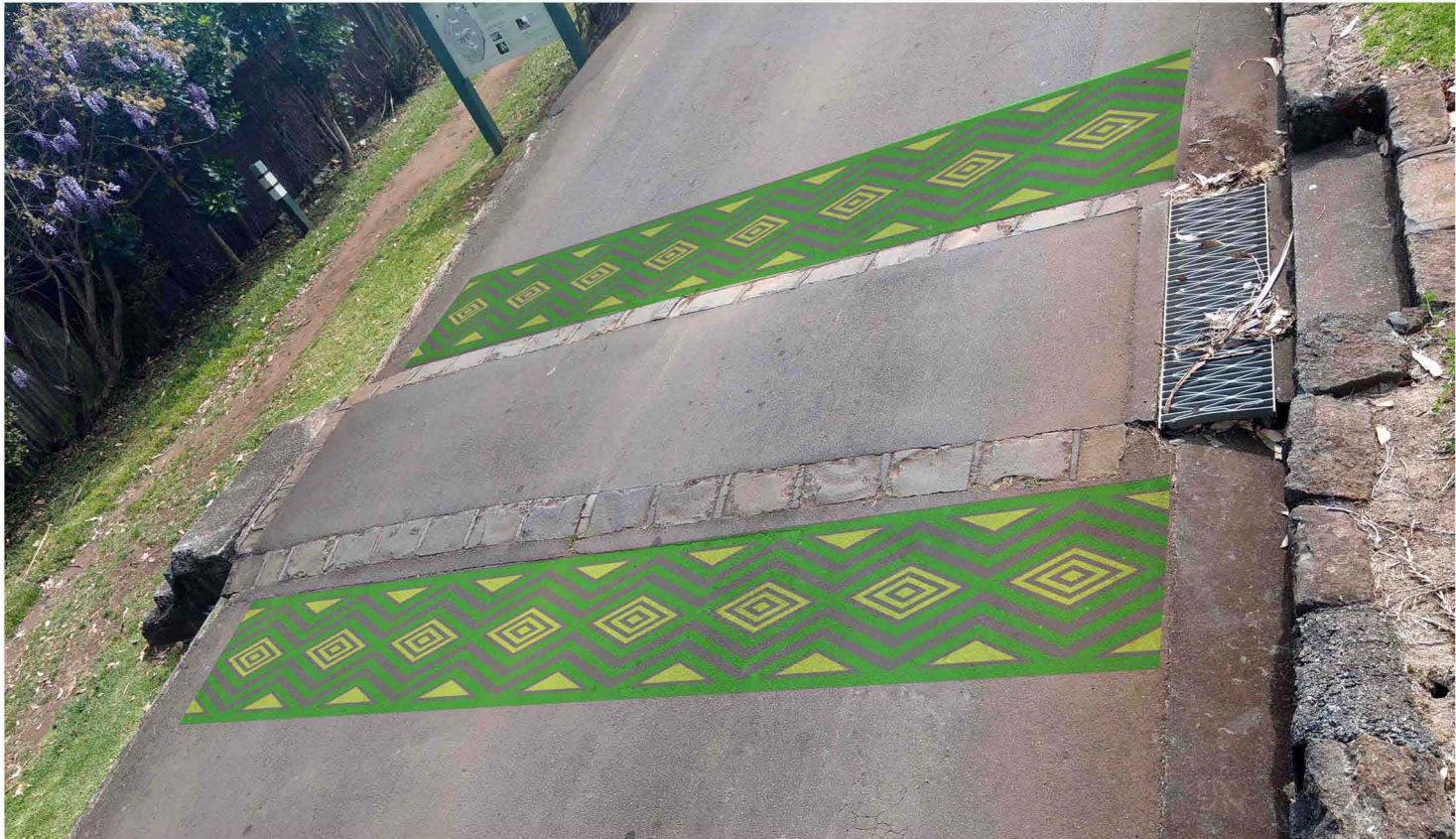
Unfolding and evolving, growing and unfurling like the Pītau - the frond of a young fern, towards the light.

This design draws on the design traditions of Kōwhaiwhai, employing the Pītau motif as a way of exploring that early conception and evolution of new life.

Entrance & Tihi design



Aramoana panel, SWC & Waharua kōpito



Steps design concept



Maungauika Map plot

