Te Kopua
Site: The Falls and Alderman car parks, Auckland

Project Summary Te Kōpua reflects the traditional name given by māori to a deep pool at the confluence of two streams near the project site. This reminds the project team that the spaces and experiences provided for residents are made richer by protecting the natural environment and acknowledging communities who were here before them.

Te Kōpua will follow the holistic sustainability principles of the Living Building Challenge, but what sets it apart is the aspiration to achieve Zero Carbon over its entire lifecycle. Key strategies include replacing carbon-intensive concrete with structural cross-laminated timber, and generating as much energy as is used via onsite renewables.

Integrated with the project’s environmental aspirations are the social outcomes it seeks to provide. These include targeting affordable price points for buyers of residential units, long-term savings in energy and water costs, and spaces that foster social interaction between residents and with the surrounding community.

As an exemplar project Te Kōpua recognises it has a responsibility to enable others to follow. The project will be documented in a public communication campaign spanning design, construction and operation that includes sharing of design resources to both inspire and empower future generations of buildings in New Zealand to achieve similar outcomes.

Key Components & Solutions

- Te Kopua is a net positive energy, zero carbon building project that promotes sustainable consumption and lifestyle.
- The project has a strong ambition in sustainable water management by providing a large amount of water consumption from water recovery and ensuring on-site waste water treatment through an innovative “Living Machine” based on phytoremediation, using living plants to clean up water.
- The project maximizes the benefits of the site by recovering the wastewater heat for its energy and installing a very large surface of 1,300 sqm of photovoltaic panels.
- Te Kopua addressed low-carbon mobility through a full set of solutions: limited number of parking spaces, charging stations for electric vehicles, car-sharing program as well as many services for bicycles.

Main members of the team
Developer(s): Province Developments Limited
Architect(s): Sills van Bohemen ● Studio Nord ● Resilio Studio Limited
Others: GWE Consulting Ltd ● Revolve Energy ● Tricia Love Consultants ● SUST Communication Ltd

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