



The Auckland War Memorial Museum

Founded in 1852 the Auckland Institute and Museum moved to its current site in the Auckland Domain in 1929. The building was initially conceived as a prominent memorial of ongoing benefit to the community to commemorate those who had fallen in the Great War. Auckland architects Grierson, Aimer & Draffin, themselves veterans, won an international competition for the Memorial Museum with a strong neo-classical design in Portland stone and reinforced concrete that interwove the heroic associations of classical Greek architecture with Maori and native botanical motifs.

Recognised as holding both national and international significance as a major monument to those who have fallen in not only the Great War, but in conflicts since then. The Auckland War Memorial Museum has since its construction been an important landmark in Auckland. Facing due north out toward the Waitemata Harbour its elegant structure can be seen sitting proudly atop Pukekawa hill from many points of the city.

This year was the Museum's 80th birthday. To celebrate Museum Director Dr Vanda Vitali wanted to illuminate the building "not only to honour its architectural magnificence, but to signify the importance of the Museums connection with the city."

Her goal was achieved thanks to the artistic vision of Francois Roupinian of lightemotion of Montreal whose considered design along with the technical expertise of Modus Architectural Lighting and the latest LED technology by Philips Color Kinetics has provided exceptional results. We were onsite working alongside the designers right the way through from site trials to the "switch on" at the gala dinner that was held on October 30th.

Utilising world leading Philips Color Kinetics RGB LED technology the illumination of the exterior will use only 1% of the Museums annual power draw. Interior spaces in the Grand Foyer have been lit with white LED systems alongside traditional light sources to significantly reduce power consumption in these spaces also.

The exterior façade of the building has three permanent lightscapes designed by Light Emotion. As the sun sets the façade is bathed with a golden wash of light that shifts subtly into a warm amber tone at midnight. As the morning draws closer the colour of the light fades to soft blue moonlight shades between 3am and 7am.

We are immensely proud to have been involved in this iconic project in association with an outstanding team. The spectacular results reflect not only the beauty of this an important historical building, but also the possibilities that new technology and considered design can offer to bring a new lease of life to our architectural history.

