



Te Puni Village, Victoria University of Wellington

Project Details

Client: Victoria University of Wellington
Location: Wellington, New Zealand
Approx. Value: \$36m
Floor Area: 13 840 m²
Completion: 2009

Contact

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Awards

NZIA, New Zealand Architecture Awards, Residential Architecture (Multiple Housing), 2011

Property Council, New Zealand Award of Excellence, Education and Arts Property, 2010

NZIA, Resene Wellington Award for Architecture, Urban Design, 2009

“This is a celebration of light and colour within the urban landscape ... reminiscent of Noguchi and his lanterns”

– NZIA Award Citation 2009

The Victoria University of Wellington Student Accommodation project, Te Puni Village, is located at the southern end of the University precinct on a steeply sloping site fronting Fairlie Terrace and falling to the University’s Boyd Wilson playing field. It provides accommodation for 389 students in a mix of single bed dormitory rooms, one bed studios and two bedroom apartments. The development aligns with the existing University spine and the contours which in turn have informed a three building composition which deliberately seeks to break down the mass of the development.

The form of the village is shaped by the context. Three separate accommodation buildings (the Terrace, the Tower and the Edge) respond to the different aspects of the site and are linked by a level containing the communal social spaces, dining hall and administration. The smaller Terrace building fronts onto Fairlie Terrace and takes the rhythm and scale of the adjacent residential neighbours and establishes a street address for the complex. The main student entries are at lower levels relating to connections back to the main campus. The community level which acts as the main social organiser of the complex, is expressed as a transparent element which cuts through the solid massing of the buildings, forming a datum for the hostel. Everyone comes up to, or comes down to the datum to eat, collect mail and socialise.