

Urban Intergenerational Kainga Innovations: Culturally responsive marae-based housing solutions

Rau Hoskins

rhoskins@unitec.ac.nz

While there are many tiny house design packages available on the market in Aotearoa, none so far have been designed to specifically cater for Māori occupants within clustered marae and kāinga based environments where their inter-relationship with existing residential and communal facilities is critical to the successful integration of new residents into these environments. Working closely with specific marae and whānau, this research works with our Te Hononga students to refine a design brief for a specific site, ensuring too that it meets the required cultural, amenity and affordability requirements. This presentation will share the developments to date, and reflect on the research methodology and importance of whanau and community participation. This project is part of a larger four-year programme of work called Urban Intergenerational Kainga Innovations based in Tamaki Makaurau, funded by Kainga Tahi Kainga Rua, Building Better Homes Towns and Cities National Science Challenge. In Auckland there is a dire need for innovative solutions to deliver safe, secure and affordable housing through socially cohesive processes that support the development of stronger and resilient Māori communities. The UIKI programme is grounded on the traditional concept of kāinga (also called papakāinga or pā kāinga) where the marae is at the centre. Foundational to our approach is the idea that kaupapa Māori based innovations (marae and kāinga), remain applicable to contemporary community development. The concept of kāinga extends beyond the house or individual home to the surrounding neighbourhood. Healthy urban neighbourhood /community environments are conducive to whānau and hapū flourishing. UIKI asserts the importance that marae, kāinga and Māori communities play within the Māori housing discourse in Aotearoa.