

# NATIONAL EREBUS MEMORIAL



The cold, remote, and sublime Antarctic landscape seems so far away from Auckland's lush and green parks. Mount Erebus comes to mind as a hostile, malevolent presence. How can a memorial bring this landscape, this whenua, close? How can this place embody empathy for the victims and express a connection with the mountain where they lost their lives? The concept for Maunga / Kōhanga is of Mount Erebus travelling north to these shores, and rotating so that it becomes not an intimidating mountain, but a welcoming nest. Mount Erebus's topographical contours, from the opposite side of the mountain to the crash site, create an

amphitheatre, formed with grass terraces. The top terrace is backed by a concrete wall, with four bronze panels draped over it, carrying information about the Tragedy; a whakatauki; the poem Erebus Voices; the names of the 257 victims; and gratitude for those who helped in recovery and identification. Passenger and crew names are configured in the seating plan for flight TE 901, capturing the meaningful connections between everyone on board as they made their exciting journey to Antarctica. The amphitheatre is a flexible space for hosting formal civic functions, performances and exhibitions of Antarctic music and art, and

a welcoming place for everyday visitors. It is a place to enjoy the view, to reflect on the Erebus Tragedy and on one's own experiences of loss and adversity. To lie back on the grass banks and watch the clouds in the sky ... to sit on the grass terraces and stare in the distance... An axis cut through the wall and expressed on the ground points to Mount Erebus; everyone entering or leaving through the formal entry is momentarily aligned with the mountain. And an Erebus boulder sits next to the axis, on the concrete seat, inviting a tactile engagement with the distant mountain, a reverberation between here and there.

- A - Grass terraces
- B - Exposed aggregate terrace
- C - White concrete wall
- D - Bronze Memorial panels
- E - Concrete seating
- F - Grass platform / stage
- G - Entrance on axis with Erebus
- H - New path



Section through site showing contours



View looking North over site



View from Memorial Entrance, with Erebus boulder



View along wall to Erebus Voices poem