

Christchurch Art Gallery Construction News

Issue 4: April 2002

Key Dates

December 2000

- C Lund & Son Ltd commenced work on site

January 2002

- Construction of the Sculpture Wall commenced

November 2002

- Construction is completed

April 2003

- The Christchurch Art Gallery is opened

Who Can You Contact?



For enquiries regarding the contractor's operations please contact C Lund & Son Ltd's Project Manager:

Andrew Macgregor

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For enquiries regarding the project in general please contact the Council's Communication Co-ordinator:

Kay Carston
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If you would like more copies of this newsletter please contact Kay Carston (details above)

Although the tower and 150 tonne crawler cranes remain on site, the Gallery building has now reached its full height of 16 metres. The exception is the addition of a plant room which won't be seen from the street.

Update

Early in the New Year the crawler crane was removed from the area which will become the 'grand stair' to outside the Gallery's footprint (the area on which the building will stand). It was moved again during February to the area by the site-office huts in the north-west (Montreal / Gloucester Streets) corner.



Construction workers at one end of the wavy bridge. The bridge is one of the key areas of work during autumn.

This has allowed work to start on the 'grand stair' – the staircase linking the foyer on the ground floor with the gallery areas on the first floor. The walls have been completed and work has started on the wavy bridge on the first floor. The bridge will act as a link between the first floor permanent exhibition galleries (see computer-generated image and photograph). From the bridge you will be able to look down on the foyer area. Work on the staircase itself is being undertaken during April.

The ground floor is 1.5 metres above the level of the footpath and will be accessed by a gradually inclined ramp.

The site-office huts have moved to the south-west (Worcester Boulevard/ Montreal Street) corner. This, together with the relocation of the crawler crane, has allowed work to start on the basement car park in the north-west corner. Above ground, this part of the site will become part of the Gallery's

park and sculpture garden with raised planter beds containing native planting.

The installation of 'double tees' (precast concrete structures which resemble two capital Ts joined together (TT)) on the first floor in the south-east area was completed in the New Year.

They are placed over the top of the walls to provide



View from the foyer on the ground floor with the Sculpture Wall to the left and the 'grand stair' to the right leading up to the first floor, with the wavy bridge connecting two permanent exhibition galleries on the first floor (computer generated).

Continued...



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Maori name gifted

The Christchurch Art Gallery has been gifted a Maori name - Te Puna o Waiwhetu, meaning 'the wellspring of star-reflecting waters'. Waipuna is a reference to the wellsprings near the site of the new Gallery, and Waiwhetu is one of the tributaries in the immediate vicinity, which flows into the Avon River. Waiwhetu translates as 'water in which stars are reflected'. The Gallery's formal name is Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu.

Autumn on Site

Work continues on the Gallery's most significant design feature – the Sculpture Wall, which faces Montreal Street, with the installation of the Wall's mullions. These are vertical columns which support the glass panels.

A focus for construction over autumn is the Gallery's central area, and completing the 'grand stair' and wavy bridge.

Bluestone and architectural precast panels, containing flecks of bluestone, are being installed both internally and externally. The bluestone will feature from ground level to a height of 4.5 metres with the precast panels extending beyond this on the external wall facing Worcester Boulevard.

Roofing of the second floor will soon be completed including the installation of more 'double tees'.

Construction is at the stage that extensive carpentry fitout work is being undertaken throughout the Gallery.

There is currently a team of 90 workers on site – this is expected to increase to 140 as more of the trade fit-out work is undertaken.

From the City's permanent collection ...

Frederick Leighton
***Teresina*, 1874**
Oil on canvas board.
Collection of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery.
Presented by the Canterbury Society of Arts, 1932

Christchurch's community-owned art collection is one of the four most significant public collections in New Zealand. It consists of over 5,500 works, including paintings, prints, drawings, photography, sculpture, ceramics, glass and textiles.



The present facility - the Robert McDougall Art Gallery - is only large enough to show 8 -10 % of these works at any one time. This will increase to nearly 50% at the new Gallery, and a series of temporary exhibitions over time will allow most of the collection to be displayed.

Did you know that ...

... around 64,000 metres of electrical cabling are going to be used in the construction of the Gallery

... the length of lighting track within the Gallery will be approximately 1,700 metres – in other words there will be enough lighting track to go around the athletics track at QEII Park 4 1/4 times.

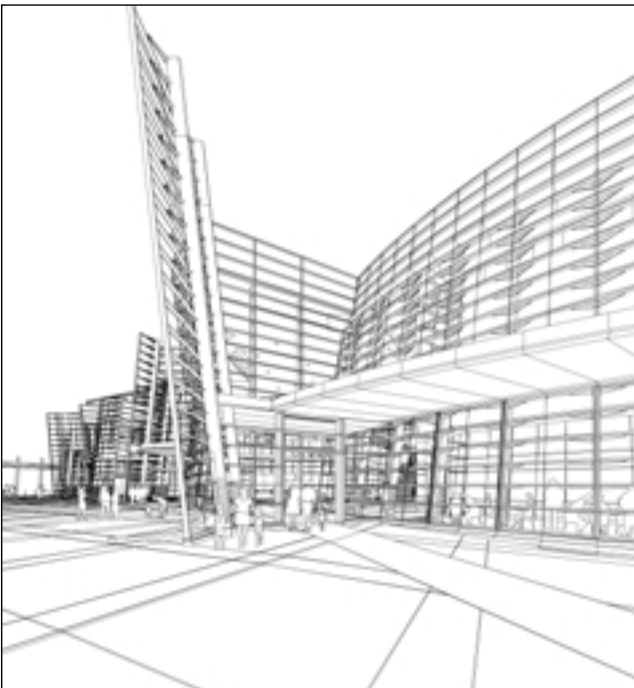
reinforcement and act as the ceiling structure for one level and the flooring structure for the next level up. Construction of the ground floor in this area, which will house galleries for touring exhibitions, is progressing well with the installation of suspended ceiling grids and services such as lighting and air conditioning.

Construction of the 160-seat auditorium and education centre on the north-east side of the ground floor is nearing completion with ongoing trade fit-out work taking place.

Once the construction work, which involves the concrete physical structure, is completed the trade fit-out work can start. This involves strapping the walls with timber or steel studs, installing suspended ceilings and services such as electricity, lighting and air conditioning, and placing lining material on to the studs.

"The ongoing shoring work around the perimeter of the site is virtually finished now," says Andrew MacGregor, C Lund & Son Ltd's Project Manager. "This is the building of temporary retaining walls which hold the sides of the basement excavation in place, while permanent concrete walls are built. From time to time this has involved the driving of steel columns into the ground which can result in localised vibration and noise.

"We have appreciated the understanding of the people and businesses in the area and I am pleased to advise that there will be no more of that. The installation of the permanent concrete perimeter wall is completed. What remains to be done is the removal of the temporary wall, which consists of steel posts and timber. This is likely to take place during May but will not cause much additional noise."



External view of the new Gallery from the south-west (Worcester Boulevard/Montreal Street) corner which shows the undulations of the Sculpture Wall (computer generated).