



New Christchurch building to showcase heritage of today and tomorrow

A new office tower to be built adjacent to the heritage-listed Canterbury Club headquarters in Cambridge Terrace will showcase Christchurch's heritage of today, while creating the city's heritage of tomorrow, says engineering consultancy, Beca.

Beca South Island regional manager, Craig Price says the new office tower – Club Tower, designed by Weir Walker Architecture for Latitude Group – promises to be an iconic Christchurch building just like its historic neighbour. It will be designed using energy efficient 'green' building principles, which are a feature of the growing international demand for environmentally sustainable design (ESD).

The existing Canterbury Club, notable for its heritage features, is to be fully restored and extended as part of an affiliated project headed by Wilkie & Bruce Architects.

"Heritage buildings stand the test of time through both their durability and their flexibility to remain useful. A great example is the restoration of the Isaac Theatre Royal, which Beca was fortunate to be part of. The installation of new ventilation and lighting systems at the Isaac Theatre Royal were a key part of 'future-proofing' the building. The venue now meets the expectations of today's patrons and means they can enjoy their entertainment in comfort surrounded by the beautiful heritage features."

According to Mr Price the heritage buildings of tomorrow will, by their nature, be 'green' buildings.

"Green buildings are becoming very popular around the world, mainly due to growing support for environmentally sustainable practices. Green buildings are designed to be energy efficient and make less of an impact on their environment by reducing energy usage,

re-using water, incorporating passive environmental features, such as solar heating and natural lighting features, all to create a more comfortable building," says Mr Price.

He said Beca's contribution to the sustainable design of projects, thus creating the heritage of the future, was part of the reason the firm sponsored the recent Beca Heritage Week.

"As a company, we have a strong heritage founded on 90 years of engineering excellence. We're also conscious of the heritage of the communities in which we work, and the built environments to which we contribute. We have a unique opportunity in our line of work to help create the built heritage of the future and this is a responsibility which we take seriously."

Beca provided its green building expertise to the construction of the South Christchurch Library and is currently working on a new

project for the University of Canterbury, the ICT building, which will also include green features.

Mr Price says Beca is also involved in a groundbreaking research project for Singapore's Building Construction Authority to design Singapore's first zero energy building.

"A zero energy building generates its own energy and does not require any external electricity supplies. Photovoltaic cells which convert sunlight to electricity are likely to be used on this project. Additionally incorporating rainwater harvesting and water re-use to further reduce the environmental impact of the building will be a key feature."

Mr Price says today's generation has a responsibility to undertake development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



“The built environment projects that we deliver today must be sustainable so that they can positively contribute to the heritage of the future.

“As consulting engineers to the Club Tower project

we have had a unique opportunity to respect Christchurch’s existing heritage, and at the same time, play a role in creating the city’s future heritage.”

Beca is providing mechanical and engineer-

ing services to developer Latitude Group for the Club Tower project. It is not involved in the affiliated Canterbury Club restoration project.



Night view of the Club Tower



Club Tower from the Avon river side