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# THE WESTIN

## AUCKLAND

### LIGHTER QUAY

#### **THE WESTIN AUCKLAND, LIGHTER QUAY – A CELEBRATION OF CONTEMPORARY MAORI DESIGN ON AN INTERNATIONAL STAGE**

Auckland's newest five-star hotel is a 'marine meets metropolitan' experience in the heart of Viaduct Harbour. Intimate in scale and feel, The Westin Auckland, Lighter Quay combines the instinctive service of the acclaimed Westin brand with a characteristic New Zealand ambiance.

To complement the Westin emphasis on relaxation and personal renewal, this luxury five-star hotel proudly reflects its heritage by showcasing contemporary New Zealand design with a clear Maori theme.

Hotel owner Nigel McKenna of Melview Developments said The Westin Auckland, Lighter Quay is a landmark destination with its unique and innovative design.

"The hotel sets a new standard in luxurious waterfront accommodation and is an absolute rejuvenation of this prime waterfront area," said Mr. McKenna.

To bring this design vision to life, Mr. McKenna brought in top hotel designer Stewart Harris of Martin Hughes Interior Architects in Auckland, a consultancy known for a series of award-winning interior design projects.

Harris' starting point was the Viaduct Harbour setting. Surrounded by water on two sides, the hotel appears to float across its two bordering marinas. The property is anchored by an internal water feature, which is enclosed by the arms of the U-shaped hotel.

"This is a city centre hotel, but it has a unique waterfront position in a bustling marina. All those factors played a part in determining the interior feel of the property," Mr. Harris said. "Nigel McKenna wanted guests to feel that this hotel couldn't be anywhere else in the world. It was a bold, imaginative move and his commitment to place and heritage has come through in everything we've done."

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Stewart believes this is the first international quality hotel in the world where Maori design and art has been used.

“There are strong Pacific elements in much of the design – from the colors and textures to the authentic Maori carvings that we have in the public areas,” he said.

“So often we see Maori tokenism used in design – a random Koru repeated here and there. What Nigel has aimed for here is a scheme that evokes the beauty of Maori and Pacific design and the earthy tones of New Zealand.”

A small band of local carvers were commissioned to produce a collection of striking pieces for the public areas of the hotel, together with smaller carvings and Pacific art which will be displayed in all 172 guest rooms.

Some of the most spacious hotel rooms in Auckland, the guest rooms at The Westin, Lighter Quay feature a calm, relaxed neutral palette of espresso colored carpet and textured ecru wallpaper, with marble and richly toned wood in the bathrooms.

Throughout the public areas of the lobby, lounge and library, the hotel’s design incorporates rich timbers, stone, grass papers and hand-woven carpets with stylised New Zealand patterns to create an appealing backdrop for a collection of exquisite Italian furnishings.

“We’ve used a range of sophisticated furnishings, bold in application but with a restrained color palette. It’s a calming, relaxed space – not a sweeping, ostentatious hotel lobby,” Harris added.

“The scale of the hotel is comfortable, intimate and personal – which fits well with the Westin philosophy of personal renewal.”

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**For further information:**

Claire McKay, PR Consultant  
The Westin Auckland, Lighter Quay  
+64 (09) 909 9000 +64 (021) 869 974  
email: [dialoguepr@ihug.co.nz](mailto:dialoguepr@ihug.co.nz)