

The Auckland museums view on restoration was that anything that wasn't traditional was replaced with something that was.

Inquisitive Grandchild: Why are kowhaiwai patterns so fat grandpa?

Grandfather: The contrast of the red, black and white makes the lines of the pattern very vivid and simple enforcing the two dimensional form. **The kowhaiwai has a flat form** so that it contrasts with **the three dimensional whakairo pou figures.**

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Inquisitive grandchild: Grandpa what is the pattern on some of the tukutuku panes that look like steps?

Grandfather: That is the poutama pattern it represents a Stairway to heaven.

Inquisitive Grandchild: Why is poutama pattern in Hotunui Grandpa?

Grandfather: The steps in the poutama pattern represent the steps of progress and advance two of these steps are planning of a child's future by parents and family and iwi. Both of these steps are relevant to marriage which was the occasion for which Hotunui was built.

Inquisitive Grandchild: How do the colours o the Poutama Tukutuku pattern in Hotunui affect the reading?

Grandfather: The colours in the Poutama Tukutuku patterns are natural earthy colours like golden hues and burnt umbers. This symbolizes the importance of nature in Maori tradition. Because nature has such high Mana natural colours give the tukutuku mana. If brighter colours were used the tukutuku would lose mana.

Inquisitive Grandchild: Why is poutama tukutuku pattern so flat?

Grandfather: Colours still contrast enough to make the geometric lines of the pattern vivid. The straight geometric shapes of the poutama tukttuku pattern contrast greatly to the curves of the three dimensional whakairo pou figures.

Inquisitive Grandchild: **Grandpa how was the Ureia pou figure in Hotunui made?**

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Grandfather: The Ureia pou figure was expertly carved by a Tohunga Whakairo, a master carver. He is a man with high mana who dedicates his hands to whakairo. Ureai, like all the other pou figures in Hotunui, is carved from the hard wood of the kahikatea tree. **First an adze, a type of axe, was used to carve the basic shape then the fine details were carved with a mallet and chisels. The Ureia was then painted with orange white and black linseed oil based paints.**

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Inquisitive Grandchild: How were the poutama pattern tukutuku panels in Hotunui made?

Grandfather: The tukutuku was woven onsite by the women. It was a very communal affair. Two women at a time would work ona tukutuku panel. Toetoe stalks were used to make kakaho which were vertical stacks that made the back bone of the tukutuku.