

Maungarei-o-Tamaki in 2050 – A town within a city

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The authors are Bachelor of Planning students at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. The text that follows is the summary of a presentation made by all four authors in a special session on Education and Research at the World Society for Ekistics Symposium "Defining Success of the City in the 21st Century," Berlin, 24-28 October, 2001.

This project was undertaken by Bachelor of Planning students of the University of Auckland, in conjunction with a stage II studio class. The project is a strategic policy-making exercise, and involves using the ekistic methodology to highlight specific objectives and policies for a possible future town scenario in 2050.

The project first describes the context of our study in the

Auckland region. Then key regional and local strategies are discussed in relation to the planned polis of Maungarei-o-Tamaki. Principles are drawn from ekistics and current regional and local strategies, in order to highlight the key themes that are to be discussed. Conclusions are then outlined in 2050 by an overriding synthesis of safety.

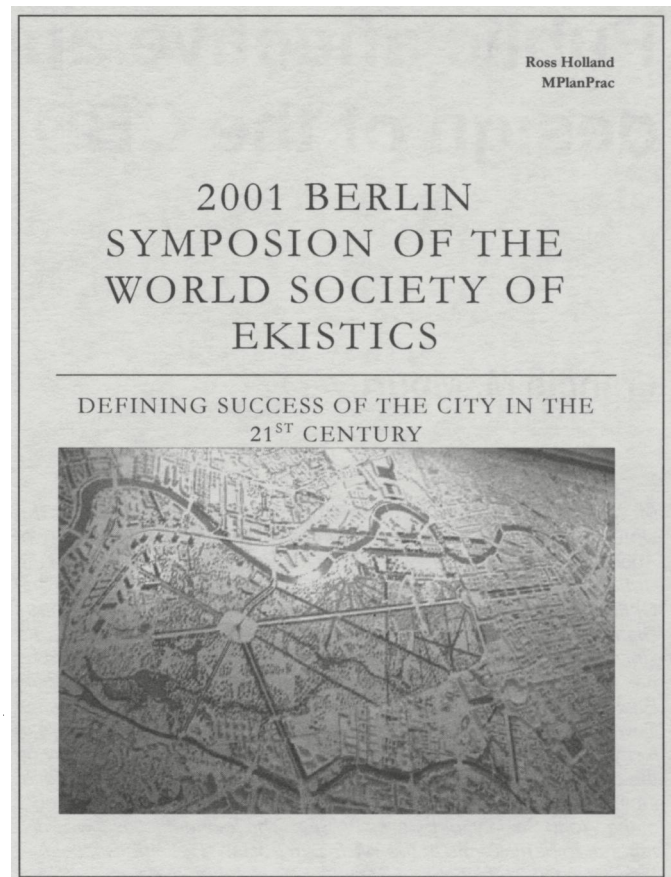
Maungarei-o-Tamaki is located in the Eastern strategic growth management area of Auckland city. Situated around the town are other towns, Glen Innes, Balmoral, and Panmure. The Auckland Regional Growth Strategy has highlighted this area as the next in line for intensification. The Liveable Community strategy describes the methods and values of future growth in Auckland. A main pattern emerging from these documents is how transportation corridors are to be used as the central nodes of future growth. The Maungarei-o-Tamaki area has an unused green corridor that is available for a future strategic road corridor. Running parallel to this is the Eastern rail corridor. This provides many opportunities to integrate the polis with the nearby central business district, and the wider Auckland region.

The project has many benefits for future intensification due to the central location of a redundant quarry that can be used for green field development. Other opportunities are through the existing educational facilities of the Tamaki University Campus. This campus aims to be a predominantly postgraduate graduate university, amalgamating crown research institutes with youth education. The area has to accommodate growth for an expected 70 percent increase in residents from approximately 10,000 to 20-30,000. A major issue here is to focus local movement on non-vehicular means, reducing environmental degradation by the unsustainable use of the private car, and efficiently moving a large population through the urban fabric of the local area, while still maintaining passenger transport connections to the wider Auckland region.

This highlights our first major theme of mixed use and housing where a range of methods are talked about, highlighting the need for mixed-use residential developments. This is then expanded upon in the second theme, which focuses on mixed-use development and the provision of open space within the desired 800 m pedestrian nodes. This theme focuses on the provision of private open space and the public domain, creating high amenity areas with a sense of community and identity. The third theme then relates to non-vehicular modes of movement connecting the 800 m nodes in a network of green connectors. The connectors integrate the local urban environment with the mixed-use centers and major transport nodes, connecting Maungarei-o-Tamaki with both local uses and the wider Auckland region. Finally, an overriding synthesis of safety in the urban environment is then discussed in relation to the three themes, including the positive theoretical outcomes of the project.

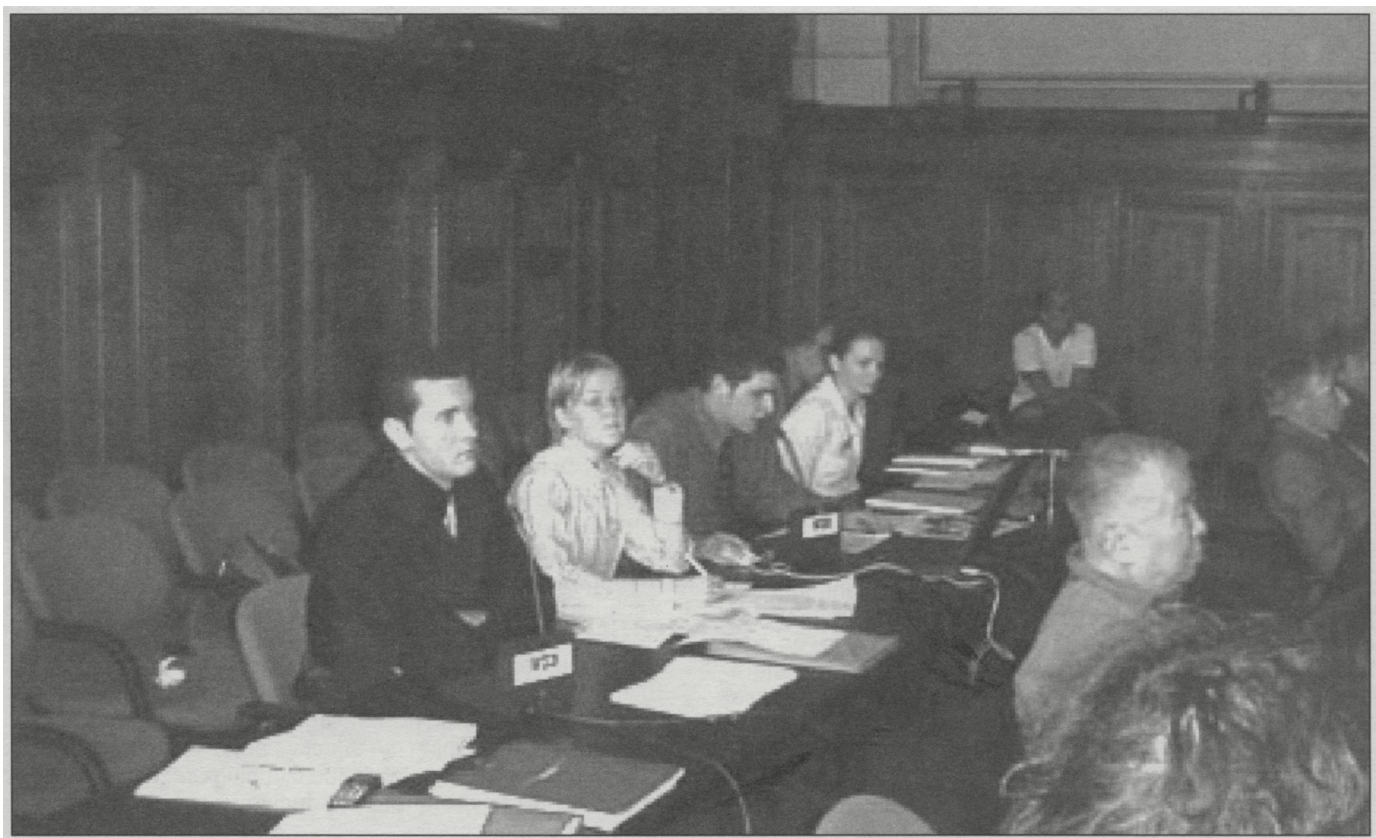
Five students from the Department of Planning, University of Auckland, namely Ross Holland, David Johns, Ian Munro, Aimee Redknap and Sarah Ricketts, were invited as participants following an old tradition of WSE. The assignment from their teacher was to record the contents of presentations with an Ekistic Grid and present their views as well as participate in the discussion following each session, as part of a more extended educational trip in European cities under the guidance of Dr Thomas W. Fookes.

After the Symposium, all participants received a report by Ross Holland on the Symposium of which we reproduce the cover here.



Right: The front page of the report by Ross Holland.

Below: The students in the lecture hall.



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