

The Rob Roy Plaza

Victoria Park Tunnel INFORMATION

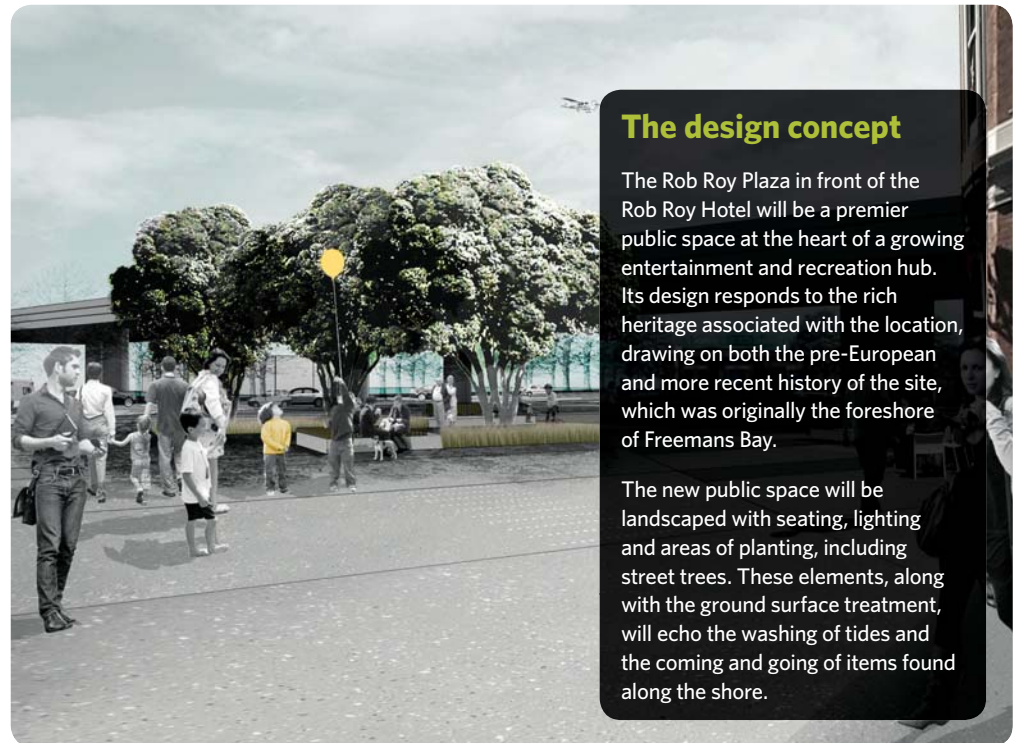
The Victoria Park Tunnel project has provided an opportunity to re-think the space in front of the Rob Roy Hotel, at the junction of Franklin Road, Victoria and Union streets.

Before VPT started, this space was used for car parking. It was dark and unattractive for the many pedestrians that used it.

Boffa Miskell has developed a design to convert this space to high quality public plaza that improves the connection between Victoria Park and the Victoria Park Market and provides far greater amenity along Victoria Street.

Quick Facts:

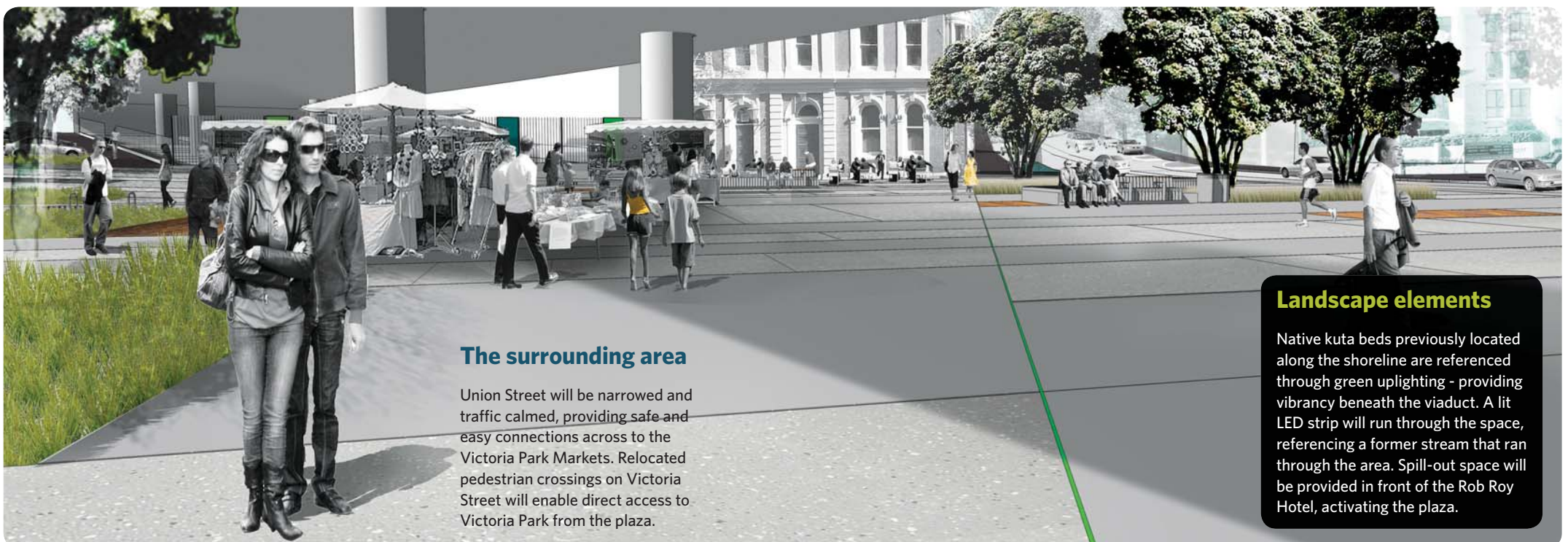
- The Rob Roy Hotel is a Category II Historic Place
- Before reclamation of Freemans Bay in the early 1900s the hotel sat on Auckland's foreshore
- The hotel was shifted 44m up Franklin Road at the end of August 2010 so that the tunnel could be built
- It will be shifted back to its original position in April this year
- The space in front of the hotel will be converted to a public plaza
- - Union Street will be narrowed to enable safe and easy access from the plaza to the Victoria Park Market.



The design concept

The Rob Roy Plaza in front of the Rob Roy Hotel will be a premier public space at the heart of a growing entertainment and recreation hub. Its design responds to the rich heritage associated with the location, drawing on both the pre-European and more recent history of the site, which was originally the foreshore of Freemans Bay.

The new public space will be landscaped with seating, lighting and areas of planting, including street trees. These elements, along with the ground surface treatment, will echo the washing of tides and the coming and going of items found along the shore.



The surrounding area

Union Street will be narrowed and traffic calmed, providing safe and easy connections across to the Victoria Park Markets. Relocated pedestrian crossings on Victoria Street will enable direct access to Victoria Park from the plaza.

Landscape elements

Native kuta beds previously located along the shoreline are referenced through green uplighting - providing vibrancy beneath the viaduct. A lit LED strip will run through the space, referencing a former stream that ran through the area. Spill-out space will be provided in front of the Rob Roy Hotel, activating the plaza.