



 Resene California

**Resene Total Colour Education Colour Maestro Award**



# Papakowhai School – New Four Classroom Block

Wellington

Vorstermans Architects were commissioned in late 2011 to design four additional classrooms for Papakowhai School in Porirua. The existing school was at full student roll capacity in 2011 with strong roll growth continuing throughout last year. Papakowhai's significant roll growth is strongly attributed to the increasing population from the adjacent Aotea Block subdivision.

The four new classrooms are located on the upper playing field area. This area is accessed from the lower main school level via a new external accessible ramp and stairway. The classrooms themselves are arranged in an 'L' shape around a north facing play area and are accessed externally via covered timber deck walkways.

Hard landscaping to the site included retaining walls to the eastern boundary, a large playing court and the new accessible ramp and stair linking the main school grounds with the newly developed top field classrooms.

These exciting teaching spaces are occupied by the year 3-4 students. The classrooms are designed for maximum sunlight and daylight access. Classrooms and shared spaces alike are passively ventilated via opening clerestory windows and cross ventilation. Each 'arm' of the 'L' shape has two classrooms, with a shared teaching space and wet area in between. The tough, durable and exciting shared wet area spaces extend the possibilities for small group learning when closed off from the classrooms. These spaces also link the two classrooms when fully open contributing to the diverse range of teaching environments possible, consistent with the modern leaning environment strategy valued by Papakowhai's teaching staff and Board of Trustees.

Large strong blocks of yellows, greens, reds and blues are used to celebrate the simple modulation of the classroom façade achieved under the project's modest budget. The coloured panels are intended to identify each classroom improving wayfinding for the school's students.

The 'yellow' block features **Resene Flashback**, **Resene Wild Thing** and **Resene**

**April Sun**, the 'green' block **Resene Lush**, **Resene Moxie** and **Resene Limerick**, the 'blue' block **Resene Limitless**, **Resene Bowie** and **Resene Aquarius**, and the 'red' block **Resene Bullseye**, **Resene Red Hot** and **Resene Dynamite**.

The coloured grip panels celebrate the location of the main interior teaching walls within each of the classrooms while repeating the geometry consistent within the exterior window joinery.

A ribbon of multi-toned green powdercoated aluminium panels guide the children from the main school up the accessible stair and ramp to the newly developed four classroom block. The main exterior wall colour, **Resene Sonyx 101** semi-gloss waterborne in **Resene Half Tea** is used consistently throughout the entire school complemented by **Resene Eighth Tea** on soffits and fascia.











**Architectural specifier:** Vorstermans Architects Ltd,  
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