



Kaitiakitanga 2030

Framework for the Profession

Strategic Context	Pou: Kaitiakitanga “As guardians of the land, water and sky, we ensure members’ work protects the physical and spiritual wellbeing of the natural world”. Giving effect to that commitment across environmental, social, cultural and economic dimensions of architectural practice in Aotearoa. NZIA Strategic Plan 2025–2028			
NZIA Definition of Sustainability	Sustainability is development that meets present needs without compromising future generations, while transitioning the built environment towards low-carbon, resilient, regenerative and socially equitable outcomes.			
Vision	By 2030, New Zealand architects are leading the built environment’s response to the climate and biodiversity crisis. By 2050, architectural practice in Aotearoa is regenerative, restoring ecosystems, strengthening communities, and honouring our obligations as kaitiaki of the land, water and sky.			
Purpose	The purpose of the Kaitiakitanga 2030 strategy is to lead the transformation of architectural practice in Aotearoa toward regenerative design, moving beyond sustaining our environment to actively restoring it. As kaitiaki of the built environment, we aspire to practice that restores ecosystems, integrates environmental and societal needs, and serves the wellbeing of people, place and the natural world.			
Te Kawenata o Rata	Respect Whakaritenga	Responsibility Rangatiratanga	Knowledge and Tikanga Mātauranga Whaihanga	Co-operation Mahi Kotahitanga

	Resources, Consumption and Responsibility				Placemaking			People, Communities and Economies			
UN SDGs	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	15 LIFE ON LAND	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Sustainable outcomes	Net Zero Operational Carbon	Net Zero Embodied Carbon	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Sustainable Water Cycle	Protection of Papatūānuku and Ecological Systems		Sustainable Connectivity and Transport	Good Health and Wellbeing	Sustainable Communities and Social Value	Sustainable Life Cycle Cost	Social and Cultural Sustainability
Principle	Reduce demand first, then supply clean energy	Build less, build light, build for longevity	Design for future climate, not past	Restore natural water cycles, reduce demand	Leave every site ecologically better		Reduce travel demand, prioritise active connection	Healthy, comfortable spaces connected to nature	Design with communities, for long term equity	Maximise long term value, not short term savings	Honour Te Tiriti, strengthen belonging
Actions (in order from low hanging fruit to harder to implement actions)	1. Reuse first: reuse and retrofit before building new. 2. Fabric first: design ultra low energy buildings through Fabric First principles. 3. Measure and manage: benchmark and model energy use from concept stage. 4. Comfort and control: provide indoor comfort control and prioritise passive strategies before mechanical systems. 5. Efficient plugloads: specify ultra low energy appliances and IT. 6. Equity: promote affordable, healthy thermal comfort for all. 7. Renewables: maximise appropriate onsite renewable energy. 8. Offsets: offset residual operational emissions responsibly.	1. Reuse before new: prioritise building reuse and material reuse. 2. Low-carbon, healthy sourcing: favour local, ethical, responsible, healthy/natural and non-toxic materials, with low embodied carbon. 3. Avoid the worst offenders: minimise high-embodied-carbon materials and impacts. 4. Long life: design for robustness, durability and long service life. 5. Measure early: introduce life cycle assessment tools and material passports from project outset to assess whole-of-life impacts. 6. Circular delivery: embed circular design including transparency, waste minimisation, design for disassembly, and consider modular/off site systems to reduce waste and improve efficiency. 7. Zero waste and offsets: target zero construction waste to landfill, then offset residual embodied carbon through recognised schemes (prioritise nature-based solutions in Aotearoa).	1. Start with risk: assess site specific hazards using Aotearoa regional projections and model future climate scenarios over the building life. 2. Make it standard: advocate whole-of-life climate risk assessment as normal practice. 3. Passive first: incorporate passive resilience strategies before active systems. 4. Design for change: resilience to physical and transitional risks, and adaptability over time. 5. Equity: ensure access to cooling, clean air and safe shelter for all occupants. 6. Community scale: design to support neighbourhood resilience, engage local communities in decision making, and engage local authorities so projects contribute to wider adaptation strategies. 7. Accountability: support and participate in climate action reporting.	1. Use less water: low flow fittings/appliances, leak detection, and waterless appliances where appropriate. 2. Water sensitive design: embed WSUD principles across all projects including stormwater management, attenuation and wetland restoration. 3. Harvest and reuse (only if workable): rainwater harvesting, greywater reuse/ recycling, and consider operational complexity and maintenance from the outset. 4. Close the loop where viable: consider onsite blackwater treatment/ recycling if appropriate and feasible. 5. Restore ecosystems and stewardship: design drainage and landscapes to support aquatic habitats and amenity, aligned with wai ora and cultural stewardship.	1. Site choice first: prioritise site reuse and brownfield, greyfield or bluefield development over greenfield expansion. 2. Protect what is there: retain existing natural features and remediate site pollution sustainably. 3. No harm locally: eliminate local pollution from development activities and outcomes. 4. Design for ecological connectivity: structure landscape and infrastructure to strengthen biodiversity corridors and natural systems. 5. Green infrastructure: integrate diverse green spaces that create habitat, strengthen biodiversity and support productive landscapes. 6. Water and coasts: use water-sensitive landscapes that support natural cycles, and protect coastal and marine ecosystems where relevant. 7. Net regenerative outcome: leave the site in better ecological condition than before development.	1. Choose connected sites: prioritise locations with strong access to public transport, services and existing ecological and community networks. 2. Strengthen, do not fragment: design infrastructure that restores ecological corridors and community connections. 3. Reduce travel demand: support high quality digital connectivity and plan transport strategies holistically. 4. Prioritise active mobility: deliver walkable neighbourhoods, strong pedestrian links and end of journey facilities, including showers, lockers and secure cycle storage. 5. Enable low carbon transport: provide EV and e-bike infrastructure and car-sharing ahead of private car dominance. 6. Deliver low carbon infrastructure: use low-carbon and modular materials, supported by digital tools such as BIM to enhance resilience and community wellbeing.	1. Connection to outside: strong visual connection to the outdoors and landscape, plus biophilic design principles. 2. Daylight and lighting quality: good daylighting, glare control and appropriate lighting. 3. Air and comfort: good indoor air quality and adaptive thermal comfort. 4. Control: responsive local controls for ventilation, temperature and lighting, including operable windows. 5. Acoustics and density: good acoustic comfort and appropriate occupant density for activity. 6. Inclusive spaces: inclusive and universally accessible environments. 7. Active living: prioritise active circulation routes (stairs) and support cycling and walking. 8. Green inside and out: provide indoor and outdoor planted spaces.	1. Place and identity: express local identity and culture, celebrating Te ao Māori and local narratives. 2. Equitable and inclusive design: deliver culturally responsive, universally accessible environments that support healthy outcomes for all. 3. Connected, mixed-use communities: create permeable, walkable neighbourhoods with inclusive spaces for interaction and belonging. 4. Safe and balanced places: design for both passive surveillance and private retreat. 5. Co-design and community led regeneration: engage underrepresented communities and support local restoration initiatives. 6. Social resilience: strengthen long-term equity and community resilience across all projects.	1. Whole-of-life value from the outset: assess capital, maintenance, management, running and replacement costs at brief stage. 2. Design for long-term performance: prioritise simplicity, robustness and adaptability to extend building life and minimise maintenance and future alteration costs. 3. Minimise operating costs: specify energy- and water-efficient systems to reduce long-term occupant costs. 4. Measure and demonstrate value: commission at handover, provide aftercare plans, collect post-occupancy performance data and report environmental, social and wellbeing outcomes against design intent.	1. Te Tiriti: design and act in respect of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, with Tiriti-based principles embedded at practice level. 2. Community-led regeneration: prioritise community-led restoration and regeneration. 3. People and belonging: design to encourage relationships, social cohesion and a sense of belonging. 4. Inclusive practice: prioritise workforce diversity and inclusion within architectural practice. 5. Inclusive procurement: advocate for procurement and supply chains that support local and Māori businesses.	
Kaitiakitanga 2030 Climate Commitment	Operational energy Now: measure and report modelled energy use. 2030: residential <60 / Non-residential <75 kWh/m ² /yr. Electrification All-electric services, no fossil fuels. PV-ready where solar aspect suitable.	Embodied carbon Now: measure and report carbon in materials and construction. (kgCO ₂ e/m ²) 2030: residential <156 kgCO ₂ e/m ² . Non-residential (Offices) <750 kgCO ₂ e/m ² .	Targets to be set in future development.	Potable water use Now: measure and report calculated litres/person/day. 2030: residential <132 L/ person/day. Non-residential (offices). <40% reduction in potable water use from baseline.	Targets to be set in future development.		Targets to be set in future development.	Overheating Now: measure and report hours above thermal comfort threshold. 2030: Not to exceed 25°C for more than 5% of the year. Non-residential (offices). <1% of occupied hours >28°C.	Targets to be set in future development.	Targets to be set in future development.	Targets to be set in future development.
He Korowai Tiaki Awards criteria	Measurements and pūnaha pūngao energy systems.	Whakapapa of building materials and processes.	Kaitiakitanga, protection of papatūānuku and ecological systems.	Kaitiakitanga, protection of papatūānuku and ecological systems.	Kaitiakitanga, protection of papatūānuku and ecological systems.		Enhancing the mauri and wellbeing of people and culture.	Enhancing the mauri and wellbeing of people and culture.	Enhancing the mauri and wellbeing of people and culture.	Measurements and pūnaha pūngao energy systems.	Enhancing the mauri and wellbeing of people and culture.
Sustainability core competencies	To be developed.	To be developed.	To be developed.	To be developed.	To be developed.		To be developed.	To be developed.	To be developed.	To be developed.	To be developed.