

Inclusive and collective urban home space

Reference to research paper is published in the international journal *Wellbeing, Space and Society*:
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666558122000094?via%3Dihub>

NGĀ HUA MATUA / KEY FINDINGS

- To meet its goal of reducing the country's carbon emissions by 2030 and meet the needs of our diverse population, Aotearoa needs to increase the diversity and quality of its housing.
- Important sustainability and wellbeing benefits are associated with well-designed, compact housing developments that incorporate communal or public spaces and are located close to public transport. Such developments offer an often-missing middle option between low-density single-family homes and high-density inner-city apartments.
- Buildings and transport together make up half of our carbon consumption.
- A shift to a focus on medium-density housing would deliver multiple benefits, cutting the amount of energy used to heat homes, and fostering cycling and walking instead of car travel.
- New Zealanders increasingly prefer living in more compact cities that reduce travel times to work, school, and amenities, and encourage active and/or public forms of travel, and which also keep housing and transport more affordable.
- The Government aims to shift the emphasis away from standalone family homes, as laid out in its 2021 Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development (GPS-HUD).
- The Government needs to go further if the future of Aotearoa is to be genuinely transformed.
- Housing developments can support social connections by creating shared pathways or entryways and shared spaces (playgrounds, gardens, communal dining rooms, etc.).
- Papakāinga (Māori communal housing developments) that are located on ancestral land can help whānau connect (and reconnect) with the wider cultural landscape simply by being on the whenua (land) of their ancestors or by having visible sightlines to important landmarks such as maunga (mountains).

NEXT STEPS

- **Practitioners, decision-makers and leaders:** increase the supply, diversity and quality of medium-density housing, including multi-generational and collectively-oriented options (such as co-housing developments, and papakāinga on Māori land).
- **Local Government:** act to reduce the barriers to sustainable developments by hapū and iwi by ensuring that planning rules treat kāinga or cluster housing as 'normal' forms of development
- **Central Government:** spur change by normalising collective housing models



Affordable/public housing development in Hinaki Neighbourhood, Panmure North, provided by Tāmaki Regeneration Company (photo by Crystal Olin)