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# [Finalists for French memorial at Pukeahu to be exhibited](http://www.ambafrance-nz.org/Finalists-for-French-memorial-at-Pukeahu-to-be-exhibited)

Four possible designs for a French memorial in Wellington’s Pukeahu National War Memorial Park will be on public display from October 20.

Designs referencing trenches of the Western Front, the Carrière Wellington in Arras, shared experiences of war and peacekeeping and French war poetry are to be exhibited in the Dominion Museum Building ahead of the announcement of an expert jury’s decision on the final design.

The shortlisted designs, **Le Calligramme, L’Arc de Paix – The Arc of Peace**, **Carrière de mémoire – Quarry of Memory** and **les Fleurs Sauvages** will be on display in the museum’s foyer until the 20th of November.

An exceptional 43 entries were submitted by New Zealand and international teams in response to an architectural competition launched by the French government on April 25th. The winner, to be announced on 11 November 2016, will be commissioned by France to design the memorial to be erected at Pukeahu National War memorial Park at the invitation of the New Zealand Government.

**PROPOSALS**

Patterson Associates, Architect, Paul Baragwanath, Culture and Art adviser, and Suzanne Turley, landscape Architect designed “Le Calligramme”, a soft sound sculpture set in to a table and pillar constructed from French lime stone. Described as looking at the past to the future, it is intended as a ‘’gift of shared memory’’ to celebrate the two countries enduring collaboration and deep fraternity. The Architects describe its experience as “ephemeral language and permanent materiality combining to provoke beauty for people in a spatial, temporal and emotional engagement .”

Designers of “**L’Arc de Paix -The Arc of Peace**”, comprised of team members Kingsley Baird (artist) and Adam Flowers (CCM Architects) with Professor Annette Becker (French historian), Allen Wihongi (Maori cultural advisor) and Alistair Cattanach (Structural Engineer), said about their proposal that “L’ Arc de Paix - The Arc of Peace memorial acknowledges the enduring friendship between New Zealand and France forged by shared experiences of war and peacekeeping and the two nations’ deep cultural affinities. Recognizably French qualities are expressed in the design, materials, and symbols. As a ‘living monument’, the experiential nature of L’Arc de Paix is enabled via visitor engagement with the memorial’s features”.

The team behind “**Carrière de Mémoire – Quarry of Memory**” assembled by Andrew Sexton Architecture, explained how "a collection of underground quarries in France, named after New Zealand towns and cities, have offered the inspiration for a memorial which brings these place names, inscribed beneath French soil, back to the surface at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.  Incorporating plant species from France as well as Aotearoa/New Zealand, the site-design by Mark Newdick Landscape Architects, asserts the ongoing, living, cyclical nature of the memorial and of memory itself.  Texts by poets Gregory O'Brien and Jenny Bornholdt (in English, French and Maori) inscribed into the walls, link France and New Zealand and offer a lyrical reflection on past, present and future. The memorial is to be experienced in the round, and invites participation and exploration, offering a space not only for reflection upon historical events but also for contemplation of the mysteries and illuminations of individual and cultural life - those things that bind us to each other and to the natural world."

“**Les Fleurs Sauvages**” is proposed by Amanda Bulman and Nicolas Zilliox (bbc architects), Jake Yocum (Artist), Richard Ainsworth (Architect), Nick Denton (Architecture Graduate), and Hamish Moorhead (Moorhead Landscapes). "Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua, My past is my present is my future, I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past. A red trench cuts into the ground, surrounded by a delicate cloak of plantings which provides the hope of regeneration. The experience is sensual, relying on perception and memory to connect the visitor to those being remembered.”

Ambassador of France to New Zealand Florence Jeanblanc-Risler, New Zealand Registered Architect Stuart Gardyne, French Ministry of Defence Director for Remembrance, Archives and Military Heritage Myriam Achari, France/New Zealand Friendship Fund board member and former New Zealand Ambassador to France Sarah Dennis and Member of the French First World War Centenary Commission’s Scientific Committee Professor Yves Le Maner considered the entries.

The shortlisted proposals will undergo further consideration from a jury made of French and New Zealand members before the winning design is announced in November. The winning team will have a budget of $570,000 to complete the memorial, which will be built in 2017 and inaugurated in 2018.

**Background**
On the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of World War I, and at the invitation of the New Zealand authorities, a French memorial will be inaugurated within the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington in 2018. Pukeahu is administered by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on behalf of the New Zealand Government

The design of the memorial, a gift from France to New Zealand and its people, prioritises creative dialogue between the two countries. This arises from the strong belief that a memorial representing the relation between the two nations should have its main characteristics and purpose designed collectively, through a collaboration uniting French and New Zealand representatives from civil society.

In that regard, and in order to reflect upon the general context and spirit under which this memorial should be designed, a France/New Zealand symposium took place in France from 6 to 12 December 2015. Its purpose was to establish the creative brief of the memorial, in regards to aesthetics, design and remembrance purpose.

The work of this symposium was itself based on the material gathered through a series of interviews with more than 30 New Zealand personalities (artists, historians, designers, writers, and prominent New Zealanders involved in the commemorations of the Great War).

The competition is endorsed by the [New Zealand Institute of Architects](http://nzia.co.nz) and takes place in close collaboration with the [Ministry for Culture and Heritage](http://mch.govt.nz) and the [Wellington City Council](http://wellington.govt.nz). The French Embassy in New Zealand is extremely grateful to these partners for their support and guidance, as well as to [Rider-Levett-Bucknall Inc.](http://rlb.com), Auckland for generously sponsoring the competition by offering free-of-charge quantity surveying.

The French Embassy would also like to acknowledge the great support provided by the Great War Exhibition and its staff to display the finalists’ proposals to the public.

**For more information, please visit** [**www.frenchmemorialatpukeahu.org/**](http://www.frenchmemorialatpukeahu.org/)

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