



Heritage sensitive regeneration projects after a disaster in Christchurch, New Zealand: 1- Culture and creative urban renewal 2- Re:START

OVERALL AIM:

Gaining knowledge about past and current urban practices encouraging regeneration processes



Erasmus+

Culture and creative urban renewal in Christchurch, New Zealand

- Cultural regeneration as a lever for urban recovery from natural disasters
- Culture and the creative arts in post-earthquake Christchurch
- Christchurch is the main urban area in the South Island of New Zealand
- approximately 342,000 inhabitants
- Before the earthquake of February 22nd 2011, the city of Christchurch was nationally and internationally renowned for the relevant neo-gothic built heritage of its city centre

Culture and creative urban renewal in Christchurch, New Zealand

- The initiatives to promote heritage and the arts in post-earthquake Christchurch show significant potentialities to re-create a sense of urban identity among the residents.
- The temporary projects of public art and the examples of heritage recovery are remarkable examples of community resilience in the face of disaster and demolition *tout-court*.
- The allocation of public artworks through the Gap Filler Project are meant to bring energy, positivity, creativity to the several empty areas in Christchurch through the participation of artists and citizens, who directly contribute to the creation of spontaneous urban identities and spaces

Amore A. 2015. Regeneration from the rubble. Culture and creative urban renewal in post-earthquake Christchurch, New Zealand

Culture and creative urban renewal in Christchurch, New Zealand

Gap Filler – Dance-O-Mat project

- Location: Cnr St Asaph and Manchester Streets, Christchurch
- Dates: 15 February – 28 May, 2012
- 2012
- Total cost of project: 1) \$11400 (approx) 2) \$1000 approx
- Budget: \$7600

Culture and creative urban renewal in Christchurch, New Zealand

Gap Filler – Dance-O-Mat project

- Sponsored materials: Ply wood (Placemakers), paint (Resene), steel tubing (Steel and Tube), bunting (KiteShop), Electrical labour (Aotea Electrical and Matt Ballantine), electrical materials/parts (Ideal Electrical), washing machine (Phil at Maytag), power (from neighbour), loaned limiter device (SoundStore).
- Volunteers: 6 painters, 4 installers/de-installers, 5 maintainers
- Media: The Press, TVOne, German freelance journalist for Frankfurt Book Fair, Art News, Art New Zealand, many blogs

Culture and creative urban renewal in Christchurch, New Zealand

Gap Filler – Dance-O-Mat project

- This has been one of our most successful projects to date because of how many different people have used it.
- From random passers by to organised dance groups, flamenco, break dance and the Superhero Dance Squad.
- This project really seemed to tap into a need not only for a space for dancers but a space to have fun and gather in the city. It was accessible and very simple and encouraged people to ‘play’ in the city.
- A few people warned us early on that they didn’t think Kiwis would dance in public and wondered how successful this project could be.

Culture and creative urban renewal in Christchurch, New Zealand

Gap Filler – Dance-O-Mat project

- Dance-O-Mat was been vandalised a few times – the first instance only 3 days after it opened when the lid to the money collection compartment was crow-barred off and the timer device ripped out to access the money inside.
- It was welded back on by F3 Design promptly. The wall behind the floor was tagged, as was the blackboard. A few times, the headphone jack was broken or the cord cut. Design modifications were made to stop this happening.
- Maintenance was ongoing with this project. The floor got rather dirty as it was on a dusty concrete pad. It was washed a few times by Gap Filler and once with a big scrubbing cleaning bee!

Culture and creative urban renewal in Christchurch, New Zealand

Gap Filler – Dance-O-Mat project



Source: www.gapfiller.org.nz

Re:START in Christychurch NZ

- Re:START is a project for a temporary mall built from shipping containers in Christchurch Central City, New Zealand.
- the 22 February 2011 Christchurch earthquake destroyed most buildings in the existing City Mall (Cashel and High Streets)
- Initially it was considered a short-term response to the lack of permanent buildings, but afterwards Re:START became popular and remained open for business until January 2018

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Re:START in Christychurch NZ

The project was realized in 8 weeks in Christchurch (NZ) with 61 containers for a total cost of around € 320,000

over 50 activities, spaces for markets and street artists were settled



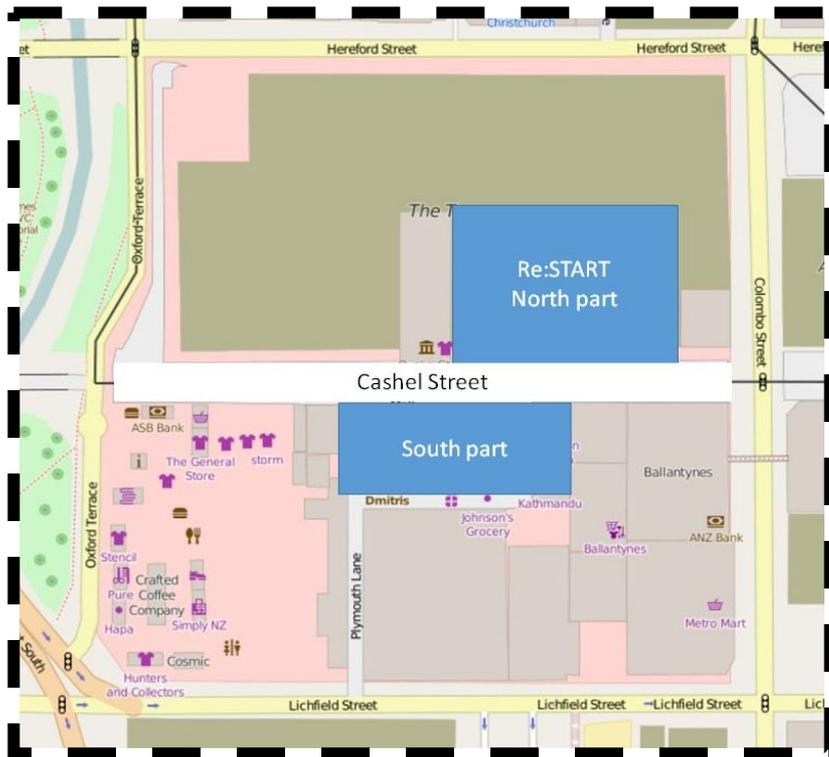
Source: commons.wikimedia.org

> containers could be easily dismantled, transported and used (also for other uses) in other places in the city

Re:START in Christychurch NZ

Original location:

> In April 2011 Cashel Street was reopened. The initiative was driven by the Restart The Heart Trust, which was set up for the purpose of getting retail back into the central city. Temporary shops made from shipping containers were fitted out as retail premises, to accommodate 27 shops branded as Re:START.



Flexible solution,
without precluding the
quality of the project

Re:START in Christychurch NZ

New location:

> In 2013, it was announced that by April 2014, Re:START may have to close, which evoked a strong reaction by the public and stakeholders for it to be retained.

> The lease on the northern part of the mall was about to expire, therefore it was decided to relocate it following the expiration of the agreement with the owners of the area.



> the temporary solution became an internationally famous icon and symbol of post-quake Christchurch innovation that lasted five-and-a-half-years.

> While the Re:START name has gone, the containers will live on until the redevelopment of the entire mall begins. It will foresee a Farmers Market construction.

Re:START in Christychurch NZ



Source: commons.wikimedia.org

the city mall



Source: commons.wikimedia.org



**Project "SURE - Sustainable Urban Rehabilitation in Europe"
implemented in frames of Erasmus+ Programme
Key Action 2: Strategic Partnership Projects
Agreement n° 2016-1-PL01-KA203-026232**



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