



Peter Lange Our Collection

Peter is a sculptor and leading light in New Zealand's pottery scene. He was born in Otahuhu in 1944 and is the younger brother of Prime Minister David Lange. He has exhibited regularly, both individually and as part of a group; in New Zealand, Turkey, Dubai, China, Italy and Taiwan. He has works in collections across the country and in China and Dubai. He has taken Artist in Residence and teaching positions in five different countries.



Visitor's Guide No. 1

1 The Plane Sculpture

The brick plane sculpture is located on the grassy slope in front of the school's Technology Centre.

The idea for this sculpture came when Peter was browsing through a junk shop in Dunedin. There he saw 4 or 5 of these wooden planes, it brought back happy memories of his childhood. His father had 4 or 5 of them too. While thinking about his childhood he recognised the form as being an ideal one to do in brick - "quite elegant and streamlined."

The sculpture of a wooden jack or smoothing plane is part of a collection of objects from Peter's childhood. It is one in a series of sculptures including, a bell that his mother rang to get the family home for dinner, a dodgem car from the Easter Show, a paper dart he flew as a child and his father's wooden plane from the shed in the back garden. All the sculptures are made of bricks.

This sculpture links in well with the vision for our Technology Centre, the reference to a happy childhood, a tool for construction and a new and interesting way to look at a common material. All these are important features of our technology programme where we challenge our students thinking. The sculpture asks you to think outside the square, challenging your ideas on how materials are used.

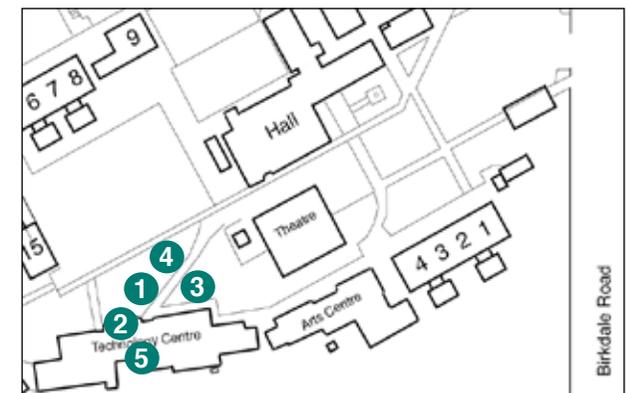
Peter has also made the objects in the collection the same size even though in

real life they are vastly different. It is a link to his childhood memories of the tokens in a Monopoly game, the top hat being the same size as the battleship.

Peter is happy for his sculptures to be touched, sat on and climbed on, so they double as an interesting meeting place in the playground.

2 The Original Wooden Plane

When installing the plane in our school grounds in January 2009 Peter kindly donated the wooden smoothing plane he used as a guide to his construction. This can be seen in the glass display case in the Technology Centre.



3 The Bell Sculpture

The brick bell brings back memories to Peter of the one that his mother rang to get the family home for dinner. Again the curved lines of the bell are very different to the sharp angles we usually think of when bricks are used challenging our thoughts around the everyday materials we use. Peter donated this sculpture to the school.

4 The Paper Dart Sculpture

This sculpture is the third we have in the Monopoly series. Peter worked in Terms 2 and 3, 2009 with a group of our high ability visual arts students. They helped Peter with the construction while also making smaller sculptures of their own using mini bricks fired in our kiln. Again it makes us look at traditional materials in a new light.



Peter Lange looking at our students' designs with visual arts teacher Mrs Bradbeer.

5 Pottery Rat Teapot

Peter Lange is also known as an important New Zealand potter. His rat teapot is located in the glass fronted display case in the design room of our Technology Centre.



“Sculptures and pottery like these will expose our students daily to examples of art works by significant New Zealand artists.”

For many of our students this will be their first and most personal exposure to contemporary New Zealand art. It will make them aware of Art as a significant aspect of New Zealand life. We hope it will strengthen their appreciation for how art in an outdoor public setting can inspire the human spirit.



If you are interested in Peter's sculptures his brick dingy and tent are part of the permanent collection at Auckland's Botanical gardens and are located on the edge of the lake. He also has a large sculpture in the sculpture trail at Brick Bay Winery near Matakana.

