



1 Tank over the museum (credit Paul Fisher Photography). 2 Lifting the badge in place (credit: Mark Tantrum). 3 Bi plane and war memorial horses (credit: Mark Tantrum Photography).

THE GREAT WAR EXHIBITION

Opus International Consultants for Wingnut Films Productions

Project Location: Wellington



The Great War Exhibition is a world-class immersive film set inspired museum exhibition created by Wingnut Films Productions Ltd. The Exhibition was commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and the National Military Heritage Charitable Trust. It was designed to commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli landings, taking visitors to the Museum on a journey from an ANZAC soldier's perspective year by year through the First World War.

The key to the creation of the Great War Exhibition was the relationship between the client / designer (Wingnut Films Productions Ltd), contractor (Fletcher Construction), and structural designer (Opus International Consultants Ltd). Together, the team worked together towards a common goal, providing pragmatic solutions to issues as they arose to get the Exhibition completed in a 10 week time frame for the WW100 commemorations. The Exhibition is located in the Great Hall of the Heritage 1 listed Dominion Museum. The floor of the Great Hall is a suspended slab and beam floor at first floor level. The combination of heritage restrictions and bringing large and heavy vehicles and military equipment into and around the space required innovative, bespoke structural design frameworks as well as agile design and logistics planning to optimise utilisation of the existing first floor load capacity.

The Exhibition contains a number of historic vehicles and military equipment in dynamic milieu to evoke the Exhibition visitors' appreciation of the experience of the ANZACs and the local and overseas communities during WW1. Featured in the Exhibition are an eight tonne Mk1 tank, 10 tonne artillery gun, and a bi-plane, along with many other historic vehicles and equipment, which required bespoke structural frameworks. The structural design needed to address the challenge of safely getting these pieces into the first floor of the building and then safely secured, with consideration of other floor loadings of the building and the limited opportunity to adapt the Museum building structure.

The short 10 week for design and construction time frame required the design to evolve as necessary during construction and required a highly agile structural design and planning.

Judging & Copyright Statement

This project is an entrant in the 2016 INNOVATE NZ Awards of Excellence competition. The winners will be celebrated at our Awards Gala Dinner on Saturday, 12th August 2017 in Taupo.

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