

Voco Point

Lae, PNG

Client: National Fisheries Authority

Budget: Undisclosed

Role: Principal Design Consultant

Type: Mixed-Use Waterfront Development

Voco Point, like many historical waterfront areas in PNG has become a pocket of isolated parcels of land with little to no external engagement between the town, the water and the community.

The design brief from National Fisheries Authority (NFA) was to create a unique project and set a design benchmark, not only for Lae, but for Papua New Guinea.

The Bay area precinct already has two valuable assets being the Lae Yacht Club to east and Hilma Wong Park to the south. MGDD and EJE Architecture's vision was to connect these under-utilised community assets with a vibrant mixed-use waterfront development and promenade, while maintaining an active and working Port.

Pathways, shelters, sculptures, community facilities and landscaping elements were proposed to enhance the amenity of Hilma Wong Park, while maintaining the fishing village feel with the traditional Banana Boats encouraged to moor on the foreshore.

The Master Plan provides a central plaza that opens up the waterfront to the Voco Point district, and a Cruise Terminal access point off this plaza provides constant activity and use, bringing the plaza and Voco Point to life. The design encourages adjoining developments to complete a dynamic public realm.

