**URBAN HUT CLUB AUDIO DESCRIPTION**

**By Perry Piercy**

**WAIKANAE HUT**

Through the trees we glimpse something that is not trees.  It is a sliver shape…a house shape.  We weave our way up the gentle slope, crunching on fallen leaves, with seedlings springing up underfoot everywhere.  Supplejack vines hang under huge puriri and nikau trees, shafts of light filter through and paint golden patches on the ground.  The massive size of the trees dwarfs the hut even more.

As we get closer, we realise the hut is two dimensional.  The main part is only waist high, made of flat, matt, aluminium sheeting, over a four by two wooden frame. The aluminium has been fixed down with many nails, at the edges and along pertinent sculptural lines.  The indentations of the nails give a slight undulation to the flat surface.  The overall shape looks as though the house has been gently flat packed, and that at any moment it could spring back out to three dimensions.

The left and right sides are parallel, and the overall body of the house is squarish.  It has a chimney on the left, which protrudes up above the roof level, and tapers upwards, ending with a flat top.  The roof is a parallelogram and the illusion of a corrugated iron roof is created effectively through the use of a finely ribbed surface on the aluminium, which runs diagonally from the roof ridge to its bottom edge.  Below this, is the square of the body of the house.  This is is flat aluminium.

On the right hand side the end of the house faces us. A triangle shape atop a square.  The aluminium here is vertically ribbed, identical to the roof. This end wall has a window in it, the top edge of which is aligned with the roof line.  The window is bordered with natural wood.  This is the only variation in material on this face of the sculpture.  The contrasting textures of the aluminium gives the illusion of dimension, even though we know the sculpture is flat.

Seen from the side, the structure is only a handspan wide, the aluminium lapping neatly around the edges, it disappears to a silver streak.  It is as though it’s been beautifully crafted by tiny builders.

The back face of the hut has a surface of a brushed aluminium, it has fine scratches in rounded random patterns, overlaid with square, dressed, narrow gauge timber about two centimetres thick.  This has a complex, boxed structure that reminds us of the joists and dwangs of a building under construction.  Some of the lines follow the shapes that we saw outlined on the front, while others fill in the gaps.  They are all vertical and horizontal, apart from the roof outline.

One of the squares frames the window that we saw on the other side. The dark wooden frame has a narrow green trim on the edge.  This is not glazed - you can put your hand right through.  Another wooden rectangle, at floor level on the bottom right, outlines a small door, made of dressed timber, with a timber Z shape overlaid on the verticals to brace them.  It is like the door of a robust dolls house and opens with tiny hinges and a small wooden handle to reveal the hut logbook and the bright cover of the festival programme.