

Symbols...

Some basic design elements & their meanings

Koru:



The spiral is a Koru, represents the fern frond as it opens bringing new life and purity to the world. It also represents peace, tranquility and spirituality along with a strong sense of regrowth or new beginnings.

The Koru is also often associated with nurturing so when interlocked with others is frequently used to represent the strength and purity of a loving relationship within a family.

Twist:



The twist with its crisscross form represents the many paths of life and love and as such is regarded as the original eternity symbol. The single twist in particular shows the joining together of two people for eternity. Even though they sometimes move away from each other on their own journeys, they will always come together again sharing their lives and blending to become one. It tells how the strength of bond of friendship, loyalty and love will last forever.

The double and triple twists have a similar meaning but refer more to the joining of two peoples or cultures rather than individuals.

They also refer to the three baskets of knowledge.

Hei-Matau:



These very stylised fish hooks represent strength, prosperity, abundance, fertility and a great respect for the sea. It also is said to provide good luck and safety when traveling over water so is often worn by travelers.

Hei-Matau are also symbols of power and authority which are held in great reverence by the Maori people.

They were used as a practical tool for fishing and were often decorated as a sign of respect for the creatures of the sea.

There are many styles of Hei-Matau from the true hook designs to the more ornamental styles which became treasured heirlooms for generations following.

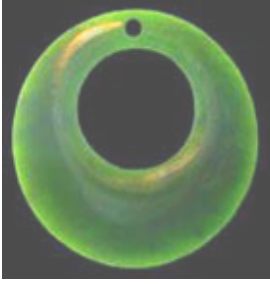
Manaia:



The Manaia is an ancient mythical being with a bird's head and a human form. It is said to be the messenger between the earthly world of mortals and the domain of the spirits illustrating the strong links the Maori people have with spirituality and the spirit world.

It is a holder of great spiritual energy and is a guardian against evil. The Manaia can be seen blended into many Maori designs with subtle differences between tribes.

The Manaia is often depicted with the three fingers of birth, life and death. It can also be shown with a fourth finger representing the afterlife and describing the circle of life.



Circle:

The closed circle is said to represent the circle of life which is has no beginning or end, is seamless and of which we are all a part. It also tells of the stars and planets which are part of the circle of life and contain the knowledge of our origins.

It is often used to enclose other elements such as the Koru, linking love and new life or new beginnings with the circle of life.

For an artist the circle represents the relationship or oneness between the artist and his craft, bringing together head, hand and heart.



Tiki:

The Tiki is a very ancient symbol. Some say he came from the stars and that he was the first man of the world. He is also often depicted with webbed feet which suggests a strong link to the creatures of the sea.

Tiki was respected as the teacher of all things and the wearer of this symbol is therefore seen to possess clarity of thought, loyalty, great inner knowledge and strength of character.

The Tiki is regarded as a good luck charm when worn and in some areas is also regarded as a fertility symbol.







Whales, Dolphins and Turtles:

The whale with its great size and obvious intelligence played an important part in the culture of the Maori people. They were often represented as an example of family love with mother and calf always side by side and touching at every opportunity.

A dolphin is s symbol of playfulness, harmony and friendship while the turtle is the sign of a navigator.

Color Symbolism Chart

| | | |
|---|--------|---|
|  | Red | Excitement, energy, passion, desire, speed, strength, power, heat, love, aggression, danger, fire, blood, war, violence, aggression, all things intense and passionate. |
|  | Yellow | Joy, happiness, optimism, idealism, imagination, hope, sunshine, summer, gold, philosophy, dishonesty, cowardice, betrayal, jealousy, covetousness, deceit, illness, hazard. |
|  | Blue | Peace, tranquility, calm, stability, harmony, unity, trust, truth, confidence, conservatism, security, cleanliness, order, loyalty, sky, water, cold, technology, depression, appetite suppressant. |
|  | Orange | Energy, balance, warmth, enthusiasm, vibrant, expansive, flamboyant, demanding of attention. |

| | | |
|--|--------|---|
|  | Green | Nature, environment, healthy, good luck, renewal, youth, vigor, spring, generosity, fertility, jealousy, inexperience, envy, misfortune. |
|  | Purple | Royalty, spirituality, nobility, spirituality, ceremony, mysterious, transformation, wisdom, enlightenment, cruelty, arrogance, mourning. |
|  | Gray | Security, reliability, intelligence, staid, modesty, dignity, maturity, solid, conservative, practical, old age, sadness, boring |
|  | Brown | Earth, hearth, home, outdoors, reliability, comfort, endurance, stability, simplicity, and comfort. |
|  | White | Reverence, purity, simplicity, cleanliness, peace, humility, precision, innocence, youth, birth, winter, snow, good, sterility, marriage (Western cultures), death (Eastern cultures), cold, clinical, sterile. |
|  | Black | Power, sexuality, sophistication, formality, elegance, wealth, mystery, fear, evil, anonymity, unhappiness, depth, style, evil, sadness, remorse, anger, underground, good technical color, mourning, death (Western cultures). |

Other symbols...

Acorn - Great potential

Anchor - Stability

Angel -- Spiritual protection. Blessings.

Apple - Love, temptation

Baggage - Travel or burdens.

Bats - Evil forces at work.

Bees - Cooperation, shared wealth

Birds - Colourful birds indicate joy and freedom.

Blood - Beware of treachery from close associates

Books - Wisdom, new knowledge.

Bridge - Transformation period. Solution.

Cage - Domination of others

Candle - Prayers answered if lit. Unlit candle is absence of faith

Carrot - Prosperity and health

Chain -restriction.

Circle - End of old cycle, beginning of new.

Clock - Need to manage time better.

Clouds - Ideas, hopes, Fleeting opportunities.

Compass - Direction, clarity of goals.

Cross roads - Need to make decision.

Crown - Achievement, victory.

Diamonds - Wealth, strength.

Dice - Situation unpredictable, risks must be taken.

Door - Opportunity, new beginning.

Dove - Peace, truce, mending fences.

Eagle - Daring actions required to create opportunity.

Envelope - Message or invitation. Unrevealed truths.

Eye - Ability to see all points of view

Fence - Defensive nature. Barrier.

Fog - Confusion, lack of focus.

Fruit - Abundance, the sweet things in life, fertility.

Heart - Sentimentality, romance, nostalgia.

Hills - Obstacles

Hook - Hidden agendas.

Horseshoe - Good luck.

Ice - Insurmountable obstacle. Need to step back and regroup. Patience required.

Jewels - Wealth.

Key - Vital information.



Knots - Obstacles. Unanticipated turn of events brings delay.

Ladder - Desire to win.

Lightening bolt - An sudden idea.

Magnifying glass - Attention to detail.

Map - Wise guidance received, follow directions carefully.

Mask - Secrets and deceptions.

Matchstick - New beginning has great potential.

Maze - Organization and concentration needed to solve difficult problem.

Mirror - Self-examination, soul searching.

Moon - Intuition. Overcoming fears.

Needle - Skilful work and patience are rewarded.

Ocean - Overwhelming problems require group effort to solve.

Owl - Wisdom.

Path - Life's direction. Progress toward goals.

Pyramid - A solid beginning has great potential.

Quicksand - Overconfidence will lead to disaster.

Rainbow - Good omen

Ring - Everlasting bonds of love and friendship.

River - Flow of creativity and emotion. Metaphor for life.

Ropes - Strong family and ancestral ties.

Scales - Balance, fairness. Equality.

Seashells - Prosperity and unexpected rewards.

Shark - Defeat. Danger.

Ship - Journeys.

Sun - Bright, clear.

Trees - Preserve long-standing traditions and values.

Telescope - Long term planning and goals.

Umbrella - Protection from harm.

Volcano - Disaster.

Wheel - Change of fortune.