

Wharf spire back up where it belongs



HANK SCHOUTEN

A SPIRE that stood on top of the Overseas Passenger Terminal for nearly 50 years has been restored to its lofty perch on top of the new Clyde Quay Wharf development.

The 2.5 tonne fibreglass and steel structure caps the \$150 million new building, which is scheduled to be finished by June next year.

The 17m spire was found to be in surprisingly good condition after it was taken down for refurbishment last year, LT McGuinness site manager Sean McGuinness said.

Putting it back up was always going to depend on the weather but a light southerly presented no problems and it was in place in just over two hours.

"The weather's been kind to us all the way through the project," Mr McGuinness said.

It was particularly helpful when work was being done to sink 200 new piles up to 35m deep under the wharf and then complete the complex task of building the large under-wharf car park.

The car park was made out of 32 concrete slabs each weighing 100 tonnes, which had to be lowered into place at low tide by hydraulic jacks. The car park segments all had to be stitched together to make them watertight before the tide rose again.

David McGuinness, project director for the Willis Bond development, said they had signed up their first commercial tenancy on the wharf.

Healthfit Collective was leasing space to set up a health and fitness centre next to the residents' gym at wharf level. The company will also manage the gym for Clyde Quay Wharf residents.

All but eight of the 77 apartments have been sold in advance. Those still available range in price from \$1.4m to \$3.5m. The most expensive apartment, on the top level at the northern end of the wharf, had been sold but Mr McGuinness would not provide details of the sale.

'The weather's been kind to us all the way through.'

LT McGuinness site manager Sean McGuinness



Re-inspired: The spire that used to be on top of the Overseas Passenger Terminal is lowered on to the roof of the new \$150 million Clyde Quay Wharf development.

Photo: CHRIS SKELTON/FAIRFAX NZ