

# Drifter

21-23 Cambridge Terrace, Wellington

**Project Manager:** Aaron Stephens

**Quantity Surveyor:** Steve Kessell

**Site Manager:** Kirk Sutton

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**\$3M**

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**Commenced  
March 2025**

**To be completed  
August 2025**

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This project involves the seismic strengthening upgrade of the existing heritage building at 21-23 Cambridge Terrace. Previously home to the Wellington East Post Office, and more recently a backpackers, the building is now being prepared for a new life as a Hotel/Hostel under the Drifter brand.

The scope of works involves strengthening the existing 8-storey heritage building – including the installation of micro piles and new foundations, as well as forming new shear walls through the building and constructing an exoskeletal concrete frame on the rear of the building in order to strengthen it. As the building has a number of heritage elements as well as carrying out the strengthening works we are also salvaging, restoring, and reinstating key heritage features.

We are tackling this strengthening from the basement up, starting with soft strip demolition followed by the hard demolition of the foundations and floor slabs, and installing the engineered temporary propping to destress the building while we carry out the strengthening works. From there we will progressively break through the floors and carry the shear walls, beams and columns on up to the top.

As with any hundred year old building, we are making a number of discoveries along the way where things are not quite as shown on the drawings. We are collaborating closely with the structural engineers and using our extensive experience in heavy building to come up with buildable solutions as these challenges arise.

