

# Extreme makeover planned for old newspaper building

**CHRISTINA PERSICO**

A new state-of-the-art office complex is to be built in the building currently housing the *Taranaki Daily News*.

The prime piece of real estate on the corner of Courtenay and Currie streets, in downtown New Plymouth, will be turned into the Courtenay Business Park.

Jackson Architects have come up with a design that will see the building partly demolished and redeveloped once the media company, which has been in the site since 1962, moves to the seventh floor of the Worley Parsons building on the corner of Gill St and Liardet St in December.

The ground floor of the redeveloped Currie St building will have a large office area which may be kept as one space or divided into two. It will also have storage areas and 18 car parks, of which 16 will be under cover with internal access.

About half of the upper floor level will be turned into 40 car parks, with another three offices completing the redevelopment - including an elevated office with a 'green belt' outdoor area with plants where people can have a cof-

fee and a chat.

Alan Johnstone of Bayley's Real Estate, which is handling the sale of the tenant blocks, said he already had someone interested in the upper level of the building, which included its own car parking off Church Ln.

"It has a high profile to the passing traffic," he said.

He said it is unknown whether all the parking would be used by the tenant businesses or be leased out.

The complex was in a great location, he said.

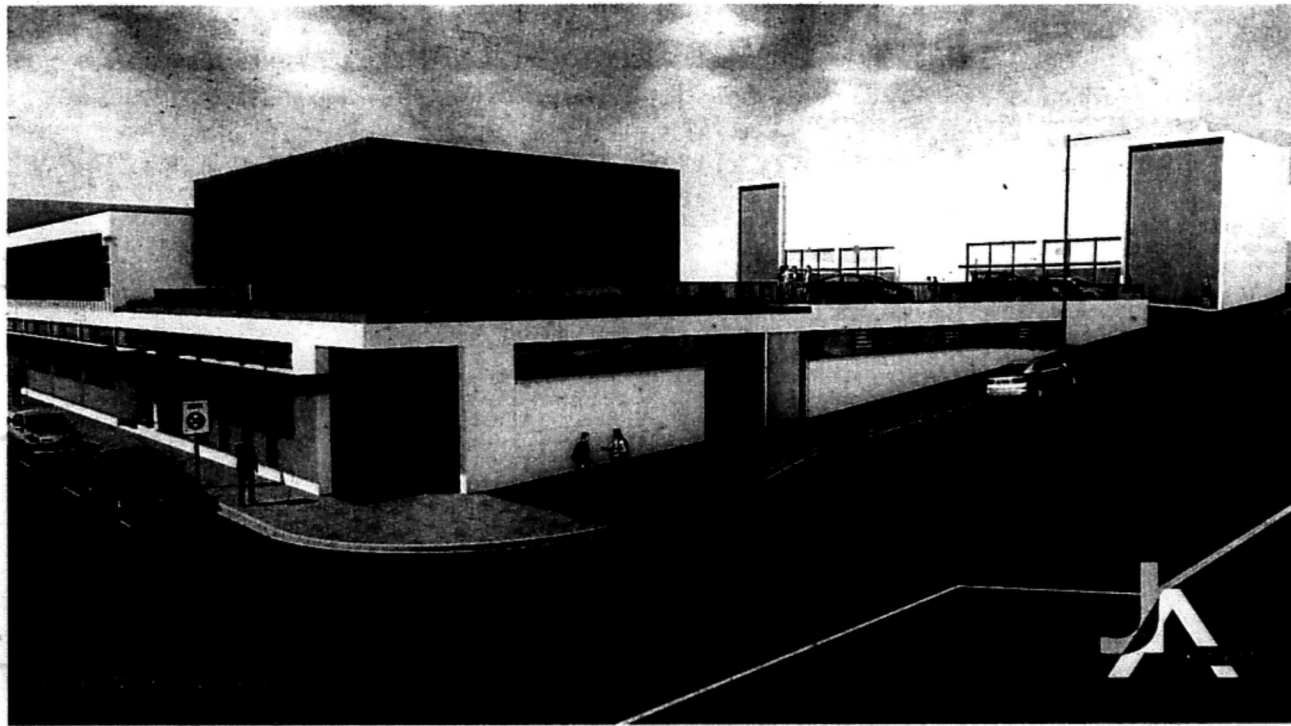
At this stage there were no other tenants lined up, although that wasn't to say the landlord didn't have anyone in mind, he said.

Johnstone said you could "put up as many pretty pictures as you like", but until people saw what was happening they were hesitant to commit to anything.

"They sit back and see what it's going to look like."

Bayley's see the building, which will have lease rates starting at \$110 per square metre, as more office than retail, he said.

The redevelopment should be completed about 6-12 months after the *Taranaki Daily News* moves out.



There will be car parking on the first and second level.



JACKSON ARCHITECTS