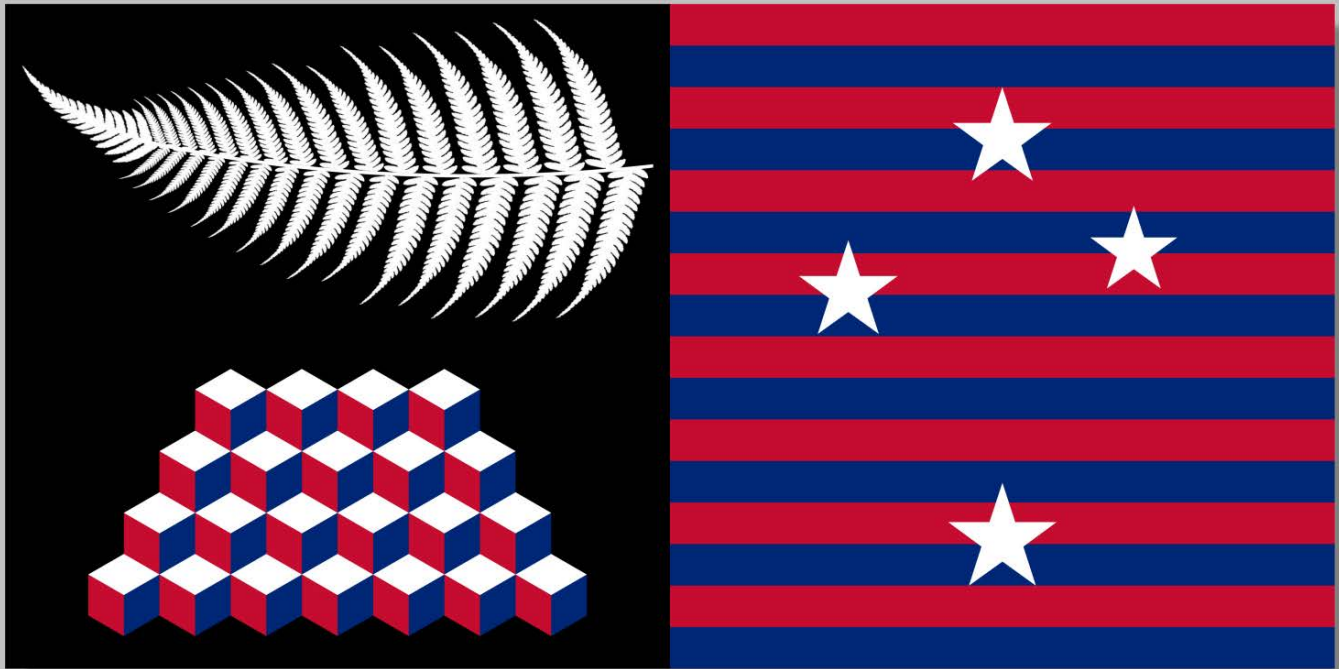
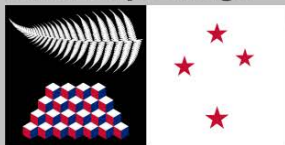


**"Ponga and Poutama", a New Zealand national flag design
(suggested derivative flags and ensigns are also depicted)**

Suggested flags for the Ross Dependency and for the South Island are based on previous designs by vexillologist James Dignan



Naval ships ensign



Air Force ensign



Civil ships ensign



Civil aviation ensign



Police Service ensign



Fire Service ensign



Customs Service ensign



Yacht Squadron ensign



RSA ensign



Niue flag



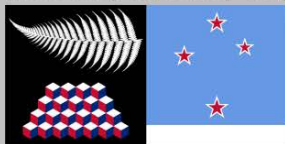
Cook Islands flag



Tokelau flag



Ross Dependency flag



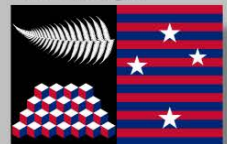
Army ensign



Government ensign



UN ensign



Chatham Islands flag



Stewart Island flag



Otago flag



South Island flag



The canton of the flag design features a prominent silver fern frond or 'ponga', accompanied in the lower canton by a group of Escheresque blocks or steps, which are abstractly suggestive of the Māori 'poutama' or 'stairway to heaven', which is in turn symbolic of the ever-upward striving of humanity. The 22 blocks can be thought of as a representation of New Zealand's sixteen official regions plus the six other major areas of the full Realm of New Zealand: Niue, Tokelau, the Ross Dependency, the Cook Islands, the Chatham Islands, and the Kermadec Islands. In the fly, the traditional New Zealand-style Southern Cross overlays sixteen red-and-blue stripes, representing the official regions of New Zealand proper. The symbolism and appearance of this flag will be striking from any distance and in any wind.