Maori are a Polynesian people who have excelled in carving for centuries. This is a short list of the traditional designs they have used.

- **Koru**
  - From the tree fern, spiral representing New Life and Growth.

- **Tiki**
  - First Child or Ancestor. Usually in foetal position. Strong Good Luck charm.

- **Wakahuia**
  - Treasure box for Huia feathers, amulets, pendants and necklaces.

- **Koropepe**
  - Eel-type fish usually in motion.

- **Hei Matau**
  - Fish hook originally carved from Maui's Grandfather's jawbone. Used to fish up the North Island. Brings Good Luck and Prosperity.

- **Manaia**
  - Guardian of Spiritual Energy. Has the Head of a Bird, Body of a Man and Tail of a Fish creating a balance of Sky, Earth and Sea.

- **Heru**
  - Ceremonial headdress for Maori man, nowadays, a unisex hair adornment.

- **Mere/Patu**
  - Hand clubs. Symbolise Facing and Overcoming Life's Difficulties and Challenges.

- **Mokopeke**
  - Mythical snake-like creature relating back to early travels through Polynesia.

- **Marakihau**
  - Mythical deep sea monster with human form and long tubular tongue.

- **Maripi**
  - Flesh cutting knife made with sharks teeth. For ceremonial occasions.

- **Tekoteko**
  - Human-like figure from apex of meeting house (Wharenui). Usually portrays long departed Chief or Warrior.

- **Tuere**
  - Carved prow of canoe or waka.

- **Taiaha**
  - Long carved spear used in martial arts - like combat.

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