Solutions

Blackpool Rocks Kinetic Light Sculpture

Sculptor/designer: Bruce McLean & Will McLean

The sculpture will reflect sunlight through a prism on to seven rocks on the Blackpool promenade. Each rock will be insulated and will be suspended on steel frames. The top will be at 90 degrees to the face of the sculpture and the base will be at 45 degrees. The sculpture is designed to catch the light from the sea and the sky and will cast shadows on the promenade.

Exploded view of reflector tower:

1. Foundation
   500mm thick reinforced concrete with reinforcement wire in the form of a spiral.

2. Pipe
   250mm diameter x 150mm thick mild steel pipe.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 225mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 450mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 675mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 900mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 1125mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 1350mm.

3. Door
   900mm wide x 900mm high mild steel sheet.
   150mm diameter reinforced mild steel tube.
   150mm diameter x 150mm thick mild steel pipe.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 225mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 450mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 675mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 900mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 1125mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 1350mm.
   150mm diameter x 25mm thick mild steel pipe distanced from the tube by 1575mm.

4. Rotating upper section
   275mm high x 150mm diameter mild steel pipe.
   Seven 900mm diameter holes cut into the tube.
   All steel sheeted, painted and rusted with a protective paint system.

5. Reflective sheeting
   Seven 900mm diameter mild steel sheet cut into the top of the tube with reinforced glass tobolite.
   The tube is reinforced with glass tobolite.
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6. Mirrors
   Seven 900mm diameter mild steel sheet cut into the top of the tube with reinforced glass tobolite.
   The tube is reinforced with glass tobolite.
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7. Cable duct
   120mm diameter steel tube to be lined with 480mm cut from 25mm thick three-ply paper and data carried from light source to the reflector.
A new sculpture destined for Blackpool promises an enlightening experience. Amanda Birch reports

Sunlight bathing

Hope for sunshine should you visit Blackpool next year. If there is no sun, you will still be able to see the results of the 10-metre high sculpture a 28-metre high structure that emits a dazzling light display. The sculpture is part of an international competition which Blackpool Borough Council have entered. The sculpture is called "Blackpool Rocks" and is set to be installed on the Promenade, between the Pleasure Beach and the Tower.

Designers Bruce McLean and his architect son Will McLean, Blackpool Rocks will be positioned on the north end of the north promenade, between Blackpool's Pleasure Beach and the Tower. The sculpture will consist of two granite blocks, each with a diameter of 5 metres, linked by a 10-metre high concrete column. The sculpture will be illuminated by a series of LED lights, which will change colour throughout the day. The lights will be controlled by a computer, which will change the colours and patterns in response to the weather conditions.

The sculpture is intended to be a focal point for the area, and will be visible from a distance. It is hoped that the sculpture will encourage visitors to explore the surrounding area, and will provide a focal point for events and activities.

Client: Blackpool Borough Council
Design: Bruce McLean, Chris Leung, and Kees van der Graaf
Structural Engineer: Adam Leach
Acrylic and glass engineer: White Young Green
Mechanical engineer: Host

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