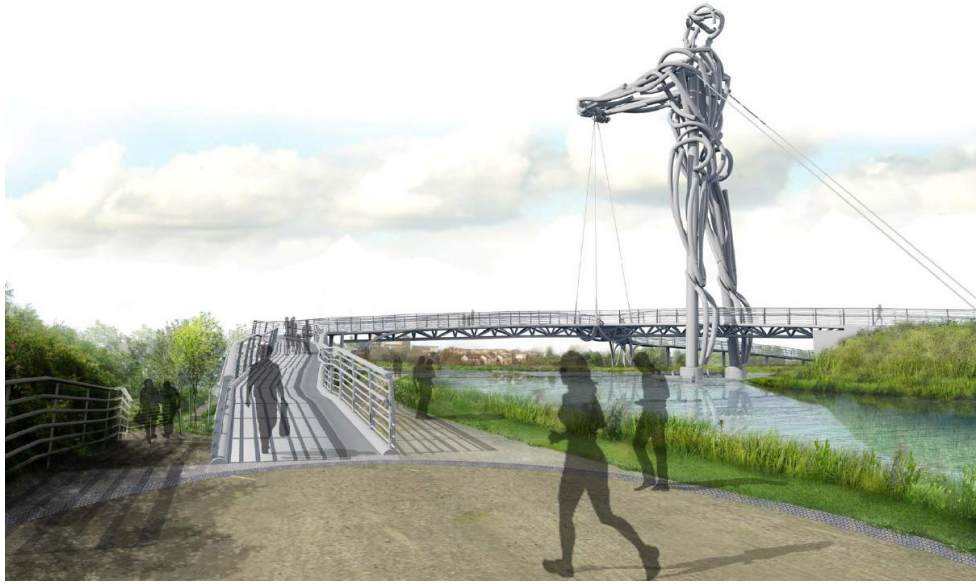


The BIGMAN Bridge – the artist's vision...



The Bigman Bridge is an artistic response to the demand for a safe crossing at the Stockingfield Junction of the Forth & Clyde Canal. This short document outlines the creative aspirations behind the proposal.

For a number of practical reasons the three-legged footbridge structure was accepted as the optimum solution for the pedestrian crossing. This necessitated a support pylon structure which would hold the bridge deck above the canals three branches at the junction.

Due to the physical constraints of the site as well as the historic listing of the canal structure, a support which cantilevered out from the north bank of the canal was favoured.

My response as a figurative sculptor was to clad that pylon structure in a tubular steel assembly which would create the Bigman.

The title is based on the vernacular greeting in Glasgow. This is a vital aspect of the structure's personification. "Bigman". All one word.

This was a tried and tested sculptural technique which was implemented to great effect in the "Thanksgiving Square Beacon" in Belfast, a 20 metre high monument to peace and reconciliation in the centre of that city.

Using this as an aesthetic precedent gave the structural engineers and lighting designers a proven comparison upon which to base their understanding of the concept.

The rationale behind the Bigman was for a utilitarian colossus, a functional artwork of monumental scale which celebrated the proud history of Maryhill and Glasgow as an industrial centre of world renown. The Bigman would stand within a few miles of the former sites of some of the finest iron foundries in the world, as well as Glasgow's heritage of shipbuilding and associated heavy industries.

His form however would be contemporary. Although steeped in the tradition of craftsmanship and dexterity he would have an aura of sleek modernity through his stainless steel composition and fabrication using cutting edge technologies.

Although massive in scale (his height will be in the region of 32 metres), he would paradoxically have minimal physical obstruction on the skyline, his open tubular structure ensuring good sightlines through his body.

His scale would create a stunning addition to the city's cultural landscape, towering above the canal and the north west area of the city and further enhancing the regeneration of the canal and the Maryhill area. He would become a major tourist attraction and a source of considerable local pride, as could be seen from the hugely successful Bigman local community festivals run at Maryhill Locks in 2008 & '09.

This allure would certainly create a trickle-down effect into the local economy as cultural tourism was drawn north west from the traditional visitor attractions of the city centre and west end.

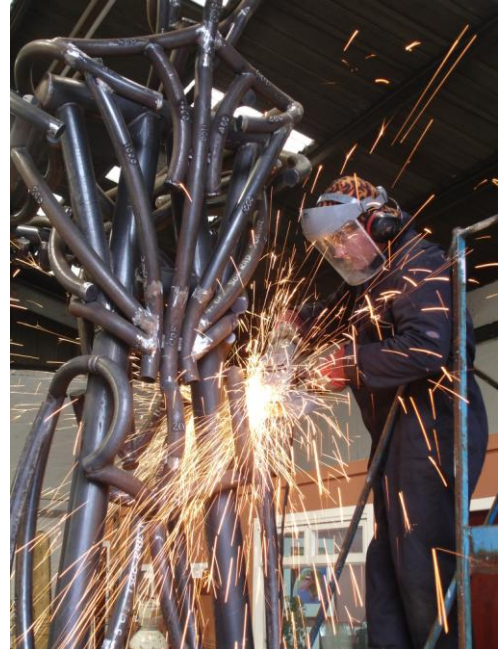
Specifically designed lighting effects would ensure maximum visual prominence in hours of darkness, and examples of potential schemes have been created digitally to demonstrate the spectacular effects possible.

The Bigman would then become a stunning landmark artwork for the city of Glasgow, a paean to its industrial heritage and a harbinger of the regeneration of the local area.

A one-tenth scale maquette has been produced and has been used in the structural analysis of the proposal, as well as the definition of his aesthetics. It has also been an invaluable tool in describing the proposal to professional partners and of course the general public.

Andy Scott

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The BIGMAN - Key Points

- A world unique combination of iconic sculpture with structural engineering.
- Major landmark artwork for the Maryhill area and city of Glasgow
- Extensive community engagement already initiated and very successful.
- Created in a local workshop by Glaswegian artist with Scottish team: heritage of city's skills and engineering.
- Catalyst for increased usage of canal and regeneration / development of canal & environs.
- Will create a safe crossing for pedestrians at the Stockingfield Junction area, which is currently a highly dangerous tunnel under the canal.
- Would be the tallest sculpture in Scotland, and likely to be one of biggest artworks in UK / Europe.
- Opportunity for creative and unique lighting.
- Opportunity for diverse peripheral uses: civic branding, tourism, local and international media awareness etc.
- Potential tie-in to regeneration of other parts of Glasgow linked to Commonwealth Games.

