

Submission for:

Bondi Memorial, Marks Park,  
Tamarama

Client:

Waverley Council + Acon

From:

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# Introduction

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The opportunity to acknowledge the victims and survivors of anti gay and transgender violence in a site specific Memorial artwork at Marks Park is a unique and special privilege. The \$2 million reward recently announced to help find the killers of Scott Johnson, murdered at North Head, is a prescient reminder that the Memorial is vital and current.

I have spent considerable time bringing my twenty years experience as both landscape architect and sculptor, to the Memorial design, devising a concept that is site specific, fitting within the existing landform including the mound, the slope next to the pathway, the sweep of the swale and the small flat area tucked into the coastal shrubs, that falls dramatically to the cliff and ocean beyond. The concept maintains site lines and observes footing locations that must be 3 metres from the top of the cliff, to meet guidelines set out in the Geotechnical report.

I have taken a wholistic approach to the contemporary design of the Memorial that incorporates Contemplation, Remembrance and Celebration:

- The Memorial provides a special and quiet space for *Contemplation*, a place to reflect and ponder.
- The Memorial provides focus for *Remembrance*, addressing the brutal context for anti gay violence and murder.
- the design expresses a sense of *Celebration* that so identifies the LGBTQI culture.

The Memorial design utilises LGBTQI symbols of the triangle and the rainbow flag. The pink triangle, was devised as a badge of shame. Gay and transexual men sent to Nazi concentration camps, were required to sew a pink triangle onto their shirts, distinguishing them from Jews, Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, disabled and other inmates.

Hitler considered homosexuals "infectious". An estimated 15 000 died in the camps, either from exhaustion and starvation and on long marches forced by the Nazi SS. Shamefully, when the Allies released prisoners from the death camps, homosexual prisoners were so reviled, they were imprisoned again by the Allies. East Germany released remaining gay prisoners in 1964.

The pink triangle was adopted in the 1970's activism for gay rights, turning the negative into a positive badge of celebration. Gilbert Baker designed the gay flag in 1979; "We needed something to express our joy, our beauty, our power. And the rainbow did that".

Given that the Memorial addresses anti gay violence and murder, the symbolism of the triangle and the rainbow colours of the gay flag are combined within the concept design. Abstraction and light evoke sensuality, colour and movement into the work, combined with quotes from Justice Kirby and Sue Thompson about the murders.

With the benefit of an initial \$140 000 budget, and Acon's further generous fund raising pledge, the proposal will be implemented in stages, with the artwork being installed first, followed by landscape works.



TOP: Gilbert Baker's rainbow flag for Gay Rights  
ABOVE: Homosexual men in Nazi concentration camp identified by the pink triangle on their shirts

# The Design

The Memorial provides a special and quiet space for *Contemplation*, a place to reflect and ponder.

## Contemplation:

Access from the main path is announced by a triangular cast concrete wall, with signage and information. A floating boardwalk draws you between the higher mound and the sloping embankment, to a triangular shaped floating platform. Two triangular seats articulate the space and maximise views out to the ocean, and also back towards the Memorial artwork. The existing bulbous grassy mound is to be retained a natural and informal place to sit and relax. The experience of looking out to the ocean is transformative, and we feel the expanse consuming us in its beauty. This is a quiet place for contemplation, to reflect and ponder. This is a space to be in, and not to walk through. It is a place with serious intent.

Signage is an important part of interpreting the Memorial. This will be designed in consultation with Acon and Council. I have allowed for a cast concrete sign at the entry. In addition there is a plaque opportunity to imprint into the cast concrete seats, and to add further text along the boardwalk.

The Memorial provides focus for *Remembrance*, addressing the brutal context for anti gay violence & murder.

## Remembrance:

Remembrance within the Memorial context draws upon symbolism of the triangle. The Nazi pink triangle was later adopted by Gay Pride, and has since remained a symbol of celebration. The cultural meaning of the triangle within the Memorial design is intended to refer to its association with gay and transgender hate crimes.

The triangle is expressed throughout; the sign, the floating platform, the seats, and in the shape of the artwork.

The Memorial artwork consists of three double sided light boxes. Abstract and vibrantly coloured glass panels are framed by fabricated mirror polished stainless steel. The light boxes address both the Memorial and the Marks Park pathway. The panels illuminate a both a strong sense of attraction, to represent “the beat”, whilst imbibing the verticality of the cliffs, from which the men were thrown and killed.

Quotes from Justice Kirby and Sue Thompson are incorporated around the edge of the floating boardwalk.

The design expresses a sense of *Celebration* that so identifies LGBTQI culture.

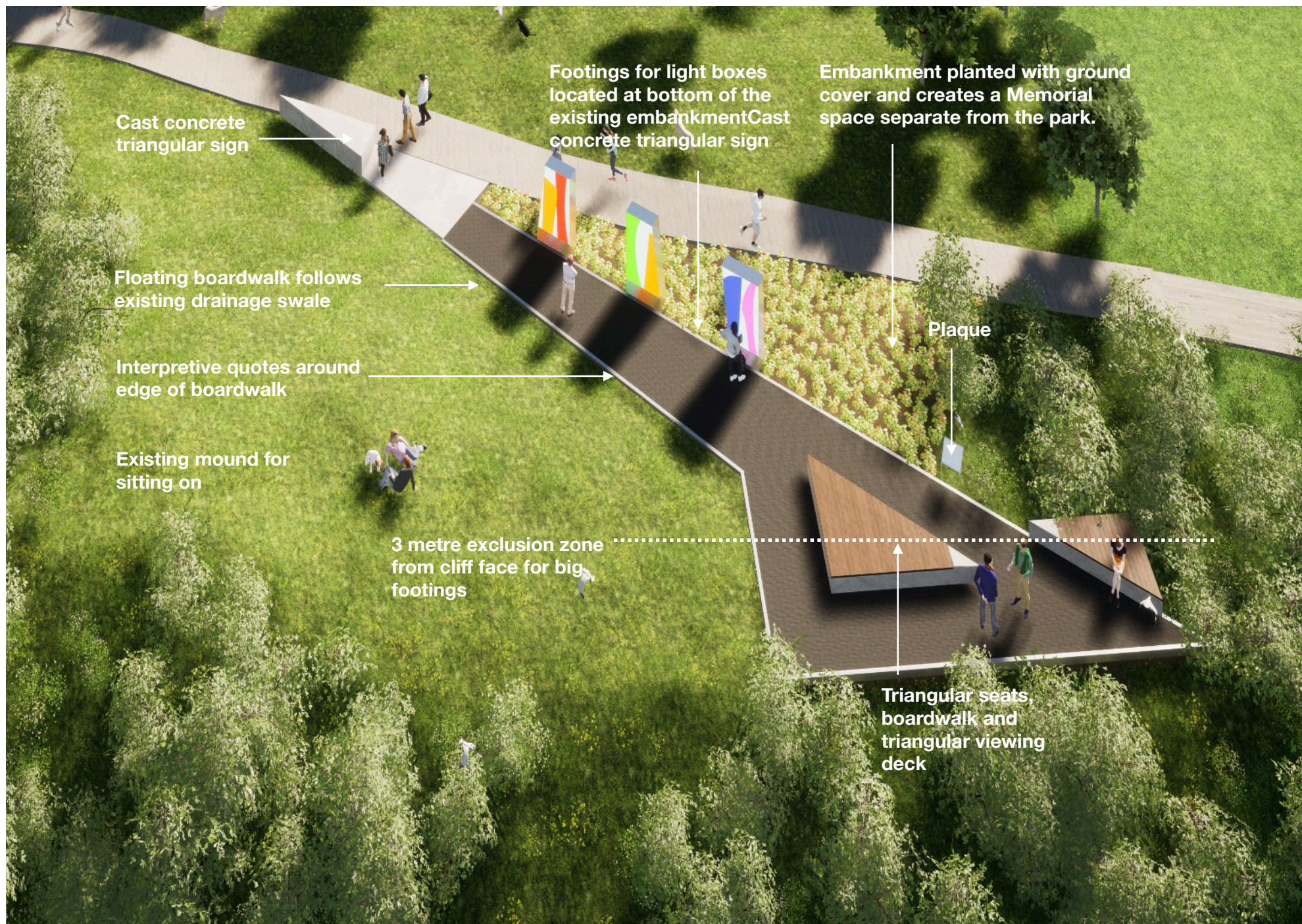
## Celebration:

Sunlight is a healing part of nature and is a crucial player in experiencing the artwork. As the morning sun rises in the east, the glass facing the memorial, is illuminated while the other side of the glass is backlit. As the sun moves overhead, the sunlight plays with the glass surface, creating a pearly essence that moves with time. Late afternoon, the glass panels along side the main concrete path light up, and the other side is backlit.

Referring again to Gilbert Baker who designed the gay flag in 1979; “We needed something to express our joy, our beauty, our power. And the rainbow did that”. Colours of the LGBT flag feature in the design of the glass: red and orange, yellow and green, blue and purple.

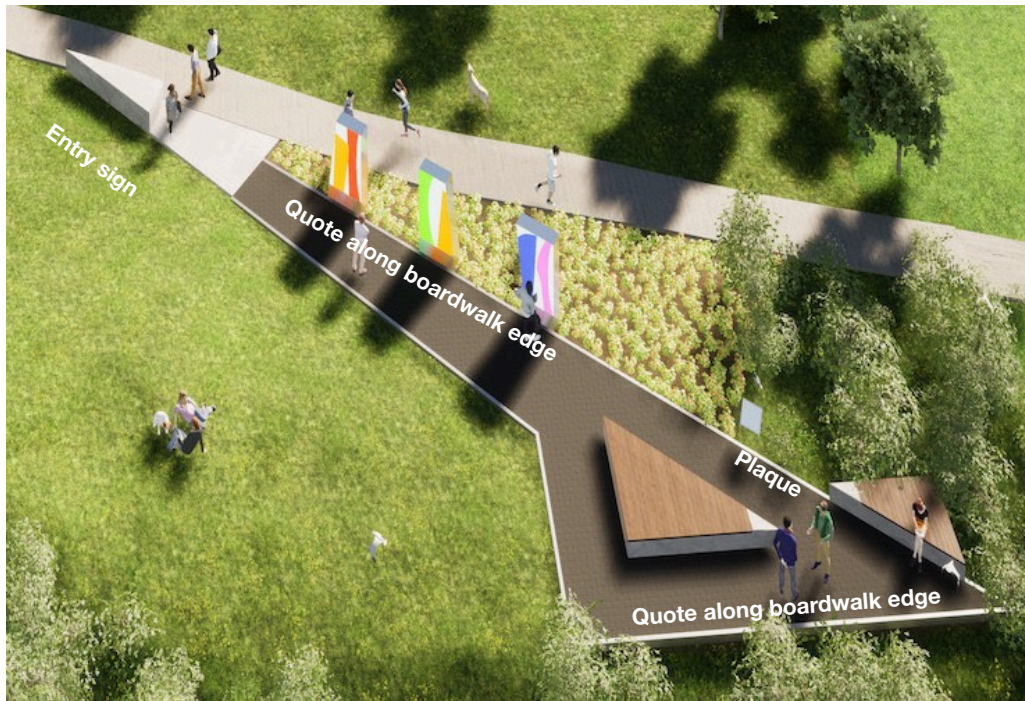
You might be fearful that glass will be smashed and vandalised - the material is incredibly strong, as it consists of several layers of toughened glass that are laminated. I have used glass in many of my artworks and it has never broken - nor will it shatter.







# Interpretation and Signage



The requirement for interpretive signage is acknowledged, and will be refined in the detail design phase.

Interpretive information is critical for the Memorial, and best done when woven seamlessly into the design elements.

The light boxes can have text included on the side or front stainless steel panels.

In this design there is an allowance for a triangular cast concrete block at the entrance of the Memorial intended for signage. In addition the name of the Memorial is on the side of the first light box, and within close proximity to the seats is a stainless steel plaque stand.



Two quotes are located along the edge of the floating boardwalk that reference both the murders and the police investigation:

*"The easiest thing with a cliff is just herding them off the edge".* Sue Thompson

*There was an attitude of complacency and indifference. Certainly not the usual motivation of energy to track down the murderers".* Justice Kirby

Permission will need to be sought from both Sue Thompson and Justice Kirby to incorporate their words into the Memorial.

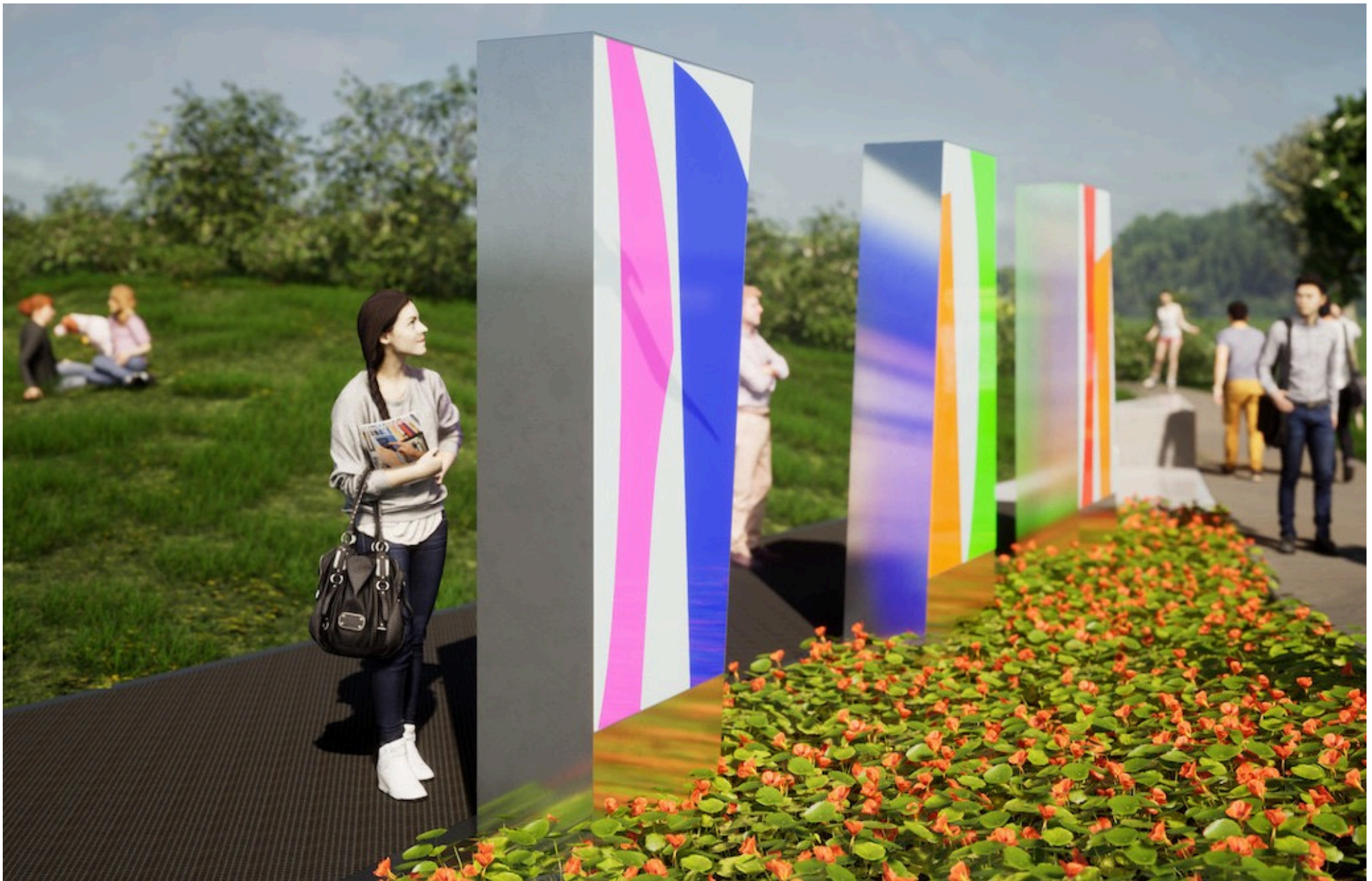




3 light boxes made from toughened laminated glass. Each panel features two blocks of colour, that depict a sense of mutual attraction (to reflect the beat). The angular forms also have a sense of danger, as the vertical forms can also be read as the precipice from which the men were thrown or pushed from.

Light boxes





Colour is a strong theme within the Memorial. The colours are borrowed from the rainbow flag that is a representation of LGBTQI culture. Embankment planting that separates the Memorial from Marks Park is also an opportunity to include colour. The sun moving through the glass changes the appearance of the glass by the hour, from translucent, to a pearly matt finish, representing the passage of time for which these unsolved hate crimes have been occurring, and are also a celebration of the life.

Colour





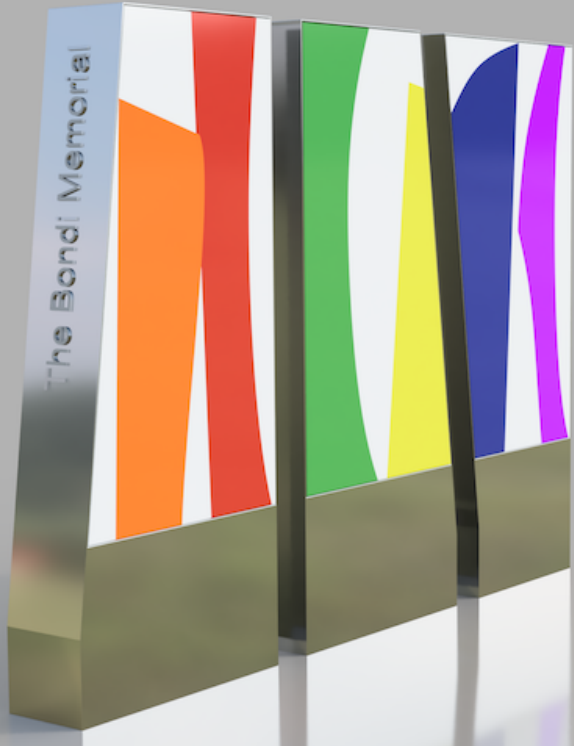
The Memorial experience seamlessly incorporates the artwork into the landscape design, where each component fulfils a purpose and carries a symbolic message - for example the light boxes are a reflection of life and life passing, the triangle was originally a Nazi symbol of hatred, adopted by Pride as a symbol of celebration, the edge of the boardwalk features quotes about the murders and the police investigation. The boardwalk is a journey and the viewing deck is for contemplation.

Seamless Design



## Lightbox details



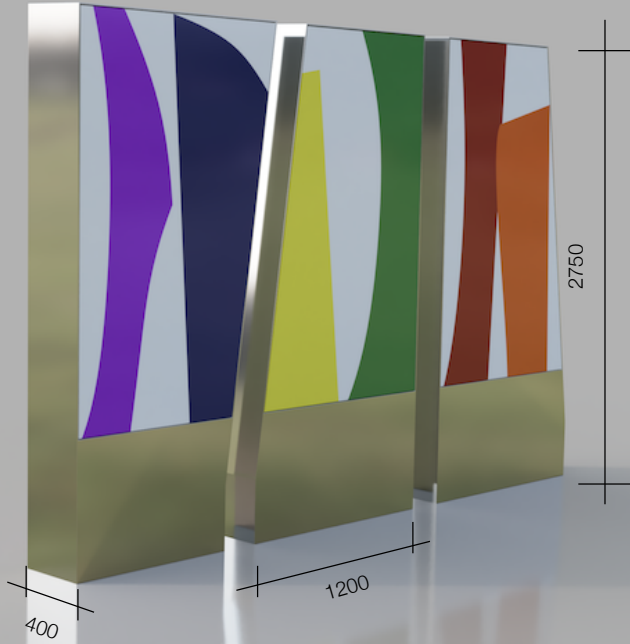


**Toughened laminated glass:**  
Glass is 14mm thick, with abstract imagery inlaid with epoxy enamel that has a 15 - 20 year guarantee.

The glass is semi opaque, allowing for a pearly luminescence as the sun moves across the sky

Each panel features two blocks of colour, that depict a sense of mutual attraction (to reflect the beat). The angular forms also have a sense of danger, as the vertical forms can also be read as the precipice from which the men were thrown or pushed from.

The boxes are made from stainless steel 316 which is the highest grade of steel suitable for marine environments. The mirror polish is a seductive finish that will reflect people, the park and the ocean.



400

1200

2750

**Appearance of internal lighting:**  
As the sun moves across the sky from east to west, the work will be illuminated with a pearly essence that appears to the viewer as internal lighting. This really animates the work throughout the day.

**Safety:**  
**The work** has no protruding edges or entrapment issues.

**Vandalism:**  
I have always found that when locating artwork in a public place, that people do not damage it. In twenty years of practice I have had only one piece of work tagged - paint is easily removed with thinners and given quick clean and polish.  
The glass is extremely durable, as in bus shelters, and public buildings with glass facades. If for any reason the glass breaks, the laminated panels stick together so there is no chance of glass shattering on the ground.

**Longevity:**  
The steel will last for many decades. The abstract patterns on the glass are inlaid with enamel that has a 15 - 20 year guarantee.



# Fabrication, Materials and Maintenance

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## **Stainless Steel Light Boxes: made by Tomas Misura, who has made all of my previous light boxes.**

The light boxes are made from the highest grade of stainless steel 316, suitable for marine environments.

Mirror polishing stainless steel limits the “tea” stains that are caused by corrosion and dirt. In this location, the stainless steel will need to be hosed down, or even washed, similar to a car four times a year. However if the weather pattern is raining, rain will wash off any stains.

## **Toughened and laminated glass: made by Axolotl**

The glass is 14mm thick, made from two panels of toughened glass that are laminated together. The glass I am using has an acid wash on the back which makes it semi opaque. The patterns will be sandblasted into the front of the glass and coated with an epoxy enamel that has a 15 year guarantee. The glass can be washed and dried with a glass cloth the same time as the stainless steel is cleaned.

**Vandalism:** Throughout my 20 year practice, I am always being told by passers by when installing my work : “ooh that won’t last long before it gets vandalised”. I have had only one piece of work tagged and the paint was easily removed. In the event the work is tagged or graffitied, the paint can be removed with thinners. The stainless steel can be polished insitu if required. Because the glass is laminated, if it is smashed, the broken glass panel will remain intact.

## **Urban landscape design and materials to be done in collaboration with Council’s landscape architects.**

### **Floating boardwalk:**

The anti slip boardwalk is a fibreglass composite material suitable for marine environments. It is used along the Bronte Boardwalk. The panels are fixed to a galvanised steel supporting understructure. There is no requirement for hand rails. Zero maintenance required.

### **Cast concrete and timber seats:**

The concrete seats and front sign can be cast on site, and sealed with a matt anti graffiti coating. The seat planks can either be hardwood or a recycled composite.

### **New Planting:**

*Carpobrotus glaucescens* is an Australian native succulent, ideal for embankments in coastal locations with bright pink flowers.

It will be the perfect plant to accompany the light boxes. New planting requires regular watering.

### **Sustainability:**

Selected materials are chosen for their longevity in tough conditions. Steel and glass can be recycled.

Since glass and fibreglass are made from sand, an abundant, natural, non-depleting resource, they are a highly sustainable solution.

*Please note that Jane Cavanough supplies her own artwork and will not enter into agreements whereby Council tenders the artwork fabrication.*





