



"It's been real fun. It looks beautiful from up there."



The Big Land Draw took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend 2006.

90 people worked with Abigail to create a huge drawing of a diatom – a single cell organism found in the mudflats and a source of food for wading birds.

Meticulously made using natural materials including rice, lentils, seed, straw and bark, the diatom measured 25 x 15 metres and remained intact until it was finally eroded by wind, rain and feeding birds.

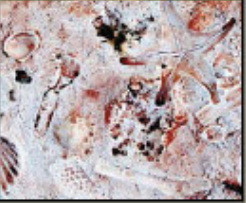
The diatom has become the symbol of Weston Shorescapes and can be found in the 'Life Cycles' shelter.





Built in the 1930's, the beach chelters are important landmarks that evoke a sense of the Shore's past as a leisure beach and grand day out.

Today, restored to their original form, they are weather havens, lookout points, and visual spaces where the history and heritage of the area is captured in artworks created by Abigail and inspired by local people.



Restoring the shelters involved considerable engineering and reconstruction.

Following the demolition of the central wall and bricked windows each shelter was grit blasted and a concrete coating applied to form the original profile of the roof, columns and window sills. Surfaces were then mortared and weather treated before being painted lime white.

The walls and ceilings are clad using glass reinforced polymer

laminated with Abigail's artwork. The glazing is made from a high quality polycarbonate, screen printed and individually formed to fit each window.

Two shelters have bespoke stone terrazzo floors – one depicting WW2 search lights, the other air currents. All feature a striking, multi-coloured terrazzo strip that runs through the shelter visually connecting Weston Towers to key landmarks across Southampton Water.

At night the shelters appear jewel-like lit by LED lights. The colour and intensity can range from subtle hues to bright visual displays for events or times of celebration.



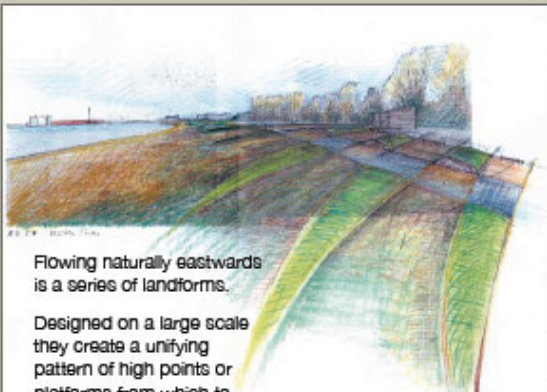
Walking along the shore you discover five large, white terrazzo seats embedded into the landscape.

Measuring 6.5 metres long and weighing 2.5 tonnes, each one is handmade to an original pattern using traditional artisan skills. Words, personal memories or community histories are inscribed into the smooth surface.



"I look out of the window and watch the liner lit up like a wedding cake floating out to sea."





Flowing naturally eastwards is a series of landforms.

Designed on a large scale they create a unifying pattern of high points or platforms from which to enjoy the panorama. On a smaller scale they act as informal seating, way markers or punctuations in the landscape.



The landforms are planted with a wild flower mix and marine grass to enhance insect habitats.



Weston Shorescapes

Design

Abigail Downer
LDA Design
Gifford
Davis Langdon LLP

Construction

A. Michola Ltd
QM Natural Stone & Design Company
Patterns & Moulds Ltd
Composite Mouldings Ltd
Vision Visual Solutions Ltd

Community Programme

Residents of Weston
Weston Park Junior School
Julie Turley
Dan Wheeler

Project Management

Rosale Woods
Mount Pleasant Media Workshop
SCC Archaeology Unit
SCC Oral History Unit
Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre

Project Management

Graham Redman
Elisabeth Smith
Malcolm Moore

Documentary Photography

© John Lawrence p4-6
© Robin Jones p3
© Rod Vekley front, back, inside cover, p1-2, p8-16

Book

Design searchcreative.net printed by Cedar Press

With special thanks to Mel Signer

Public Art Department
Southampton City Council
Southampton SO14 7LP
Tel: 023 8083 2005
www.southampton.gov.uk

© Southampton City Council 2007

Weston Shorescapes has inspired residents through the Decent Homes programme to commission a series of ceramic murals for the entrances to Weston Towers.

