

Portobello Feature Metalwork
John Street Community Park
 (For Marta McGlynn Associates)

Portobello is a distinct settlement to the East of Edinburgh. It follows the shore line with a sandy beach and typical Victorian Promenade. The site was historically a small semi enclosed public park at the foot of John Street which, once upon a time, sported an open air paddling pool. The Park, as with so many great Victorian parks and public spaces, was neglected over time and was in a semi derelict state.

The brief was to produce (as part of the park regeneration) detail designs and construction drawing for a feature 'wind' screen which would provide a level of shelter from the local sea breezes. It was also required in order to provide a sense of partial enclosure around a seating area. This would offer an alternative seating option to the benches facing out to the sea view which feature all along the Promenade.

A robust form, and the modest budget for this element of the pocket park, were key influences on the nature of the materials selection and the final form of the screen. The pattern to the lower panels was generated by Marta McGlynn personally in response to historical 'coade stone' stone pillars which will eventually form a focal point in the centre of the park. The upper perforated panels were selected to allow some through airflow and to reduce turbulence created by a solid element.

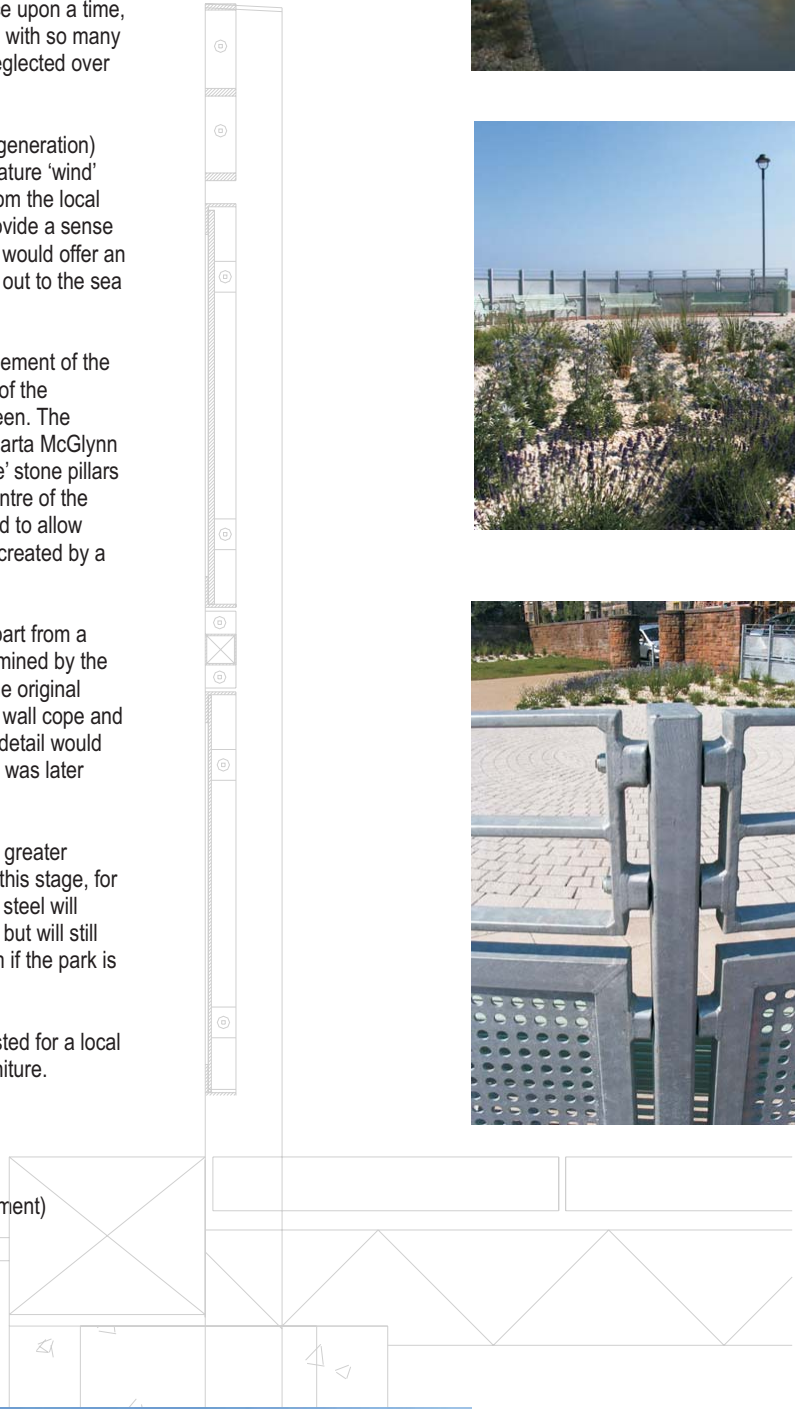
The general form of the screen was derived in part from a repeat module panel which was originally determined by the efficiency of mass produced standard sizes. The original design followed the adjacent line of the existing wall cope and then stepped down to a two panel height. This detail would have created a continuity in the design form but was later amended by the Landscape Architect.

Disappointingly, a painted finish, despite having greater longevity, was deemed not to be appropriate at this stage, for cost and maintenance reasons. The galvanised steel will quickly weather to a more subdued grey colour, but will still require to be painted in the medium to long term if the park is to be successful over time.

The feature metalwork is rumored to be short listed for a local Edinburgh City award for site specific street furniture.

Client
 Marta McGlynn Associates
 (City of Edinburgh Council - Economic Development)

Date
 2006



1.



2.



3.



4.

- 1. Seating enclosure
- 2. Wind break screen
- 3. Construction detail
- 4. Screen from within the Park