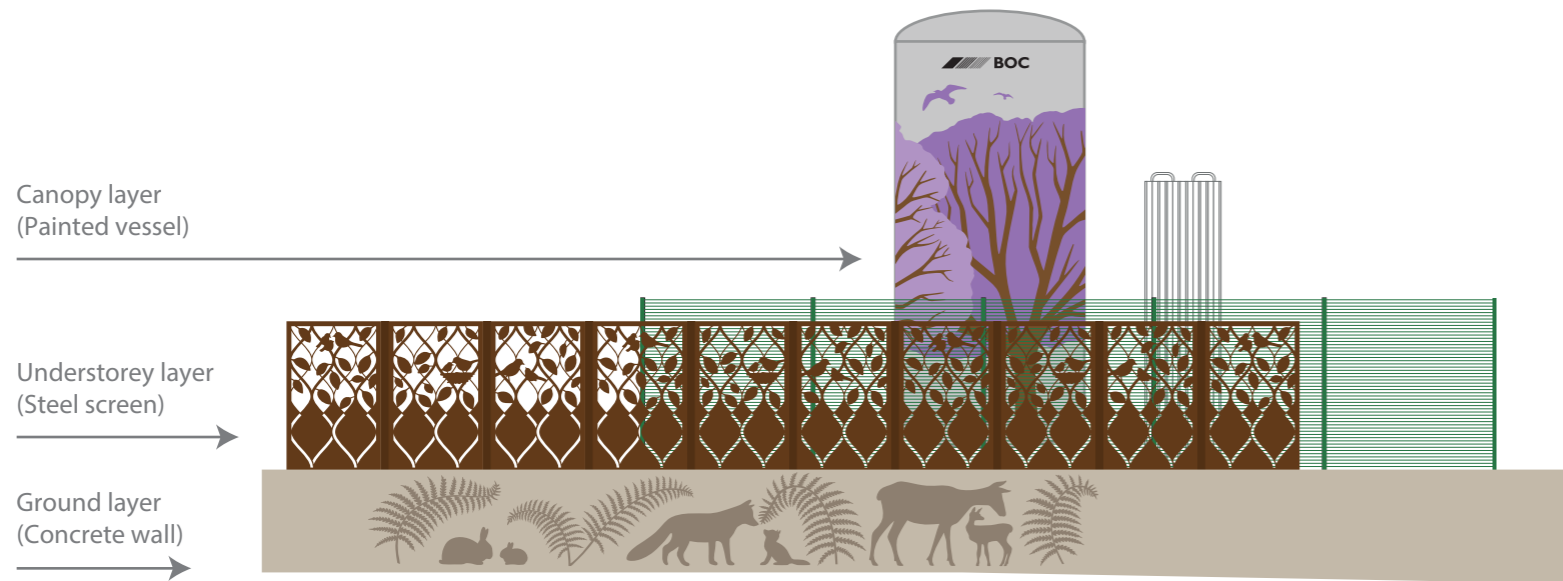


Artwork Proposal for Painted Oxygen Vessel, Barnsley Hospital, Gawber Rd, Barnsley S75 2EP



Overall theme and context

The artwork strategy for the VIE scheme at Barnsley Hospital has been designed to transform essential hospital infrastructure into a layered narrative of care, growth, and ecological connection. Through simple motifs of animals and their mothers intertwined with plant imagery, the artworks serve a threefold purpose: discreetly screening the liquid oxygen vessels, responding sensitively to the adjacent Maternity Unit, and acting as an educational tool for children at Summer Lane Primary School opposite. Firstly they provide an interesting visual screen to lessen the impact of the vessels on the surrounding area and to those approaching the hospital site. Secondly the imagery creates a universal language of protection and belonging, resonating with families entering the Maternity Unit and offering reassurance within a clinical setting. Thirdly the design unfolds vertically across the wall, screen and vessels, echoing the structure of a woodland ecosystem (ground, understorey, and canopy).

Precedent Images



Decorated oxygen vessel at Cilgerran Paediatric Ward, Glangwili General Hospital, Carmarthen, Wales.



Exploded view showing how the artwork will wrap around the vessel



Artwork description for oxygen vessel

The liquid oxygen vessel will be hand-painted with trees and birds in flight, forming the canopy layer. Rendered in shades of purple to align with the adjacent Maternity Unit's colour palette, this upper layer will act as a gentle wayfinding device within the hospital campus. Visually, it will draw the eye skyward, completing the woodland structure and transforming the utilitarian form of the vessel into a marker of identity and welcome.



Handpainted design by Keith Haring on Fire Escape Tower at the Necker Enfants Malades Hospital in Paris.

Material and Technique

The new BOC bulk liquid oxygen storage vessel will arrive on site with a factory-applied light grey polyester powder-coated base colour. It will then receive a spray-applied decorative coating system by local company, SRC Painting and Decorating who are experienced within high-risk industrial energy sites. All decorative works will be completed prior to commissioning. The surface of the vessel will be prepared with a non-residue degreaser, lightly abraded and wiped down to ensure long-term adhesion and performance of the final paint coat. A specialist adhesion-promoting epoxy primer suitable for powder-coated steel will be applied where the design is located. The artwork (consisting of three stylised trees with birds) will be applied using a two-component polyurethane or polyaspartic coating, selected for UV resistance and colour stability over 15–20 years. A UV-stable 2-pack clear protective topcoat will be applied over the completed artwork to seal and protect the design. Access will be by means of a mobile aluminium access tower complying with Working at Height regulations. A temporary sheeted enclosure will be erected around the vessel to maintain correct curing temperatures, protect coatings from moisture, frost, and wind and control overspray.



Example of exterior painting system used by SRC at The Templeborough Biomass CHP Facility in Rotherham.

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Barnsley Hospital VIE Installation

Oxygen Vessel
Artwork Enhancement

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