

The client and landowner, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, has developed and manages a 500 acre site as one of the most important contemporary art and visitor attractions in the U.K. The stunning landscape was designed over 200 years ago as a private pleasure ground. Much thought was given to the planting of thousands of imported exotic trees, to the modeling of hills and valleys, and the use of water and architectural features. Split up in the late 1940s, the estate has, in recent years, been brought together by YSP, providing open access and an integrated landscape management plan.

For the last 30 years, YSP have used the landscape, vistas and other features to site a range of fascinating exhibitions, commissions and installations. YSP also take care to preserve the spirit of the design of the historic landscape as they restore and protect the estate for the public and for future generations. Managing the estate is a massive task which includes working with farmers, foresters, gardeners and artists. The installation of exhibitions in the open air requires special skills, as does the restoration of planting schemes and drystone walling.

Feilden Clegg Bradley have skilfully created exquisite architecture, which sits sensitively within the landscape. The new Underground Gallery, cut into the hillside of the Bothy Garden, provides three galleries which are ideal for the display of sculpture. The YSP Centre and Underground Gallery have received several architectural awards.

To the south of the site is the Longside development formed from a series of undistinguished American Barns that once housed racing stables. The site now houses the prestigious Arts Council Collection and regular exhibitions are presented in the Longsides Gallery. There are also 5 small units that are let by YSP to creative industries.

The visitors to the exhibitions arrive either by a regular free minibus shuttle service from the YSP Centre or on foot, through a series of routed walks through the landscape of the overall site. These walks take on average 40 minutes. At present there is no provision for refreshments at the Longsides Gallery and the public have commented on numerous occasions that refreshments, particularly on hot days, would be appreciated. With this in mind YSP approached paulbradleystudio to design and construct a refreshment kiosk and seating area.

The design brief was for a contemporary wooden structure that would be of an interesting design to reflect the purpose of the site as a contemporary art venue, while relating to the given site opposite the entrance to the Longsides Gallery. The existing buildings are American Barns built from concrete blocks and, while the development has considerably enhanced the existing structures through the use of concrete render and large glazed panels, the remainder of the site is architecturally uninspiring and not particularly attractive.

The proposed new development is for a 4000x2300x2800mm (LWH) abstract cube structure clad with cedar shingles. The kiosk sits on a 10500x4150mm decking platform. The client requested a contemporary wooden structure and cedar shingles were selected for the cladding to create a contemporary and attractive new structure that relates to the contemporary sculpture of the site and to the concrete block-work that exists to the rear of the site. All timber materials used in the project will be from sustainable sources and the shingles are particularly durable to the elements.

The new structure is extremely small in relation to the surrounding buildings and pre-application advice has been received from officers from the Planning and Conservation Departments of Barnsley MBC. The existing tenants on the site have also been consulted with regard to the proposed new refreshment facility and its design. Their response has been extremely positive.

The proposed site will be enhanced by this development with the existing waste land being developed with a bespoke decking platform and a sail canopy to offer shelter from the elements. The surrounding walls and landscape will be refurbished to provide a more attractive location.

In terms of access consideration, Yorkshire Sculpture Park work extremely hard to ensure all the gallery spaces, exhibitions and as much of the landscape as possible are accessible to all. All the new buildings on the site are DDA compliant and access is considered as part of the planning process for all exhibitions. Special 'ritter' pathway has been laid through areas of the landscape to provide a firm pathway to help wheelchair users and those with child buggies; YSP provides free use of mobility scooters that can also be used in the landscape; a free minibus shuttle service is provided between the YSP Visitor Centre and the Longside Gallery when it is open for those unable to walk and blue-badge parking is available across the site, including at the Longside Gallery.

This new development will also be DDA compliant with ramped access to the decking platform; adequate provision for wheelchair use within the seating plan; and low counters to the kiosk for serving. The Longsides Gallery opposite the site has disabled toilets and the site is adjacent to blue badge parking.

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