

H A R R Y G R A Y

THE ROMSEY 'R' CONCEPT PROPOSAL

This major Artwork for Romsey Town, Cambridge is by Harry Gray and Will Hill.

Harry Gray has been making award winning public artworks and place making projects in Cambridge and throughout the UK for 26 years from his studio off Mill rd. Will Hill is a typographer, educator and visual artist whose work is concerned with type, letters and the visual properties of language. Will is the course leader of the M.A. in Typography at Anglia Ruskin University and lives in Romsey.

INSPIRATION

The Romsey district is historically associated with the railways ever since it was developed in the nineteenth century to provide homes for railway workers.

The project has been commissioned to celebrate the people and history of Romsey and their relationship with the railway. The main focus of the commission is a bronze sculpture to be installed within an Environmental Improvement Project (EIP) on the corner of Cavendish Road. To ensure local residents form part of the project, we are inviting for the names of the departure station and the arrival station of a personally significant journey.

Almost everyone has a rail journey important to them. It might be the first train journey you remember from childhood, or a journey to a new home or job, a journey associated with a particular relationship or a major event in your life. It might be a short trip to the nearest town, or a journey that crossed the borders of countries or continents

A selection from the submitted journeys will be cast in bronze as part of a permanent public artwork in the centre of Romsey town. In this way the public are engaged and empowered from the outset of this commission.

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THE CARVING WORKSHOP
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THE ARTWORK - FORM AND MATERIALS

This sculpture has the form of an R in the Clarendon font which was a characteristic 19th century style of letter often found on buildings, machinery and in the cast metal street name signs still visible across Cambridge and particularly in the Romsey area.

The R is formed by rectangular 'sleepers' with the names of the stations cast in raised letters, in a similar way to the popular Romsey street names. The material for casting will be bronze, chosen for its beauty and longevity. Will Hill will design a font based on the Clarendon style but specific to this project for the letters.

The 'sleepers' are secured to a bespoke R frame formed from stainless steel. This frame will represent the train track lines and thus keep the form of the R relevant to the historical Rail heritage that we are celebrating. Anti theft fixings will be essential for this project. Similar problems were successfully designed out of the sculptural elements within the new bronze entrance gates that I made for Twickenham Rugby stadium in 2016.

SCALE

The R will be up to 3 Meters high and tailored to fit the site well and to complement the existing Birch trees. To achieve this a full size model will be made and trialled on site. The Artwork has been sited to have no impact on pedestrian flow.

LIGHTING

Lighting is an essential part of this artwork. It is crucial both to enhance the sculpture and provide ambient light in the space for security. The lighting will also provide dramatic shadows of the work, which will enhance and add interest to a rather austere brick gable wall. The lighting will be subtle and embedded within the landscape.

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LANDSCAPE

The R will be designed to fit within the newly designed and installed Environmental Improvement Project (EIP) on the corner of Cavendish and Mill road. The design of the landscape has been developed to allow for the installation of the proposed work.

ENGINEERING.

The whole structure will be made to a qualified engineers specification for construction, base foundation and installation. The installation will be carried out by professional contractors and every aspect will be project managed by the Artist. Insurances and Indemnity will be supplied on request.

BUDGET £50k

The Project is deliverable within this budget.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance will be minimal.

The sculpture will be treated with an anti-graffiti coating and the open structure of the R will make it less attractive for graffiti than a solid surface.

Once every 2 years the sculpture should be re waxed and polished.
A simple maintenance document will be written by the artist.

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