

Concept Proposal // Thrussells

After studying the brief and visiting the site we felt we wanted to celebrate the processes of converting waste into energy in a symbolic way.

Using our previous experience of translating ideas into 3D form, we envisage a design that tells a story of the processes at the power plant and transforms into an accessible, interpretative and interesting piece of sculpture.

Essentially we have used the site plan and literally turned it on it's end. At the base of the sculpture is a series of pillars representing the tipping hall, this also acts as a plinth to elevate the sculpture above the highway railings to make the piece more visible.

The next section depicts the waste grab surrounded by various shapes representing the variety of waste coming into the plant. There is also a representation of the crane cable drum. This imagery could be inspired by simplistic **Art Deco** style relief carvings designs that can be found on other grand power stations of the past.

The next section could be a **Phoenix**, hand beaten in copper sheet. This panel represents new energy, rising from the ashes and transforming into heat. The red copper would also represent the fire.

The next section represents the boiler using coloured glass balls of different sizes giving the impression of boiling water turning into steam. The boiler is framed by two pillars with the **Greek god of Zeus and Poseidon** representing lightning (**electricity**) and seas (**water**).

The next section contains the steam turbine and generator. There are many other ways of representing this part of the process, we did discuss the idea of a plasma arc panel which could be inserted in this area powered by solar panels. Another idea was to have a digital read out showing power produced daily or weekly controlled by remote from the power station.

The exterior fins on the side of the sculpture tie everything together and represents the electricity cables bringing the power back down to earth with the opposite side fins bringing the steam back to earth. The chimney gives an iconic symbol with height and structure at a finished height of six metres.

Reasoning

Overall our aim was to produce a piece that was a cross between **Art Deco and Steam Punk** that celebrates the technologies and follows in the footsteps of our great power stations of the last century.

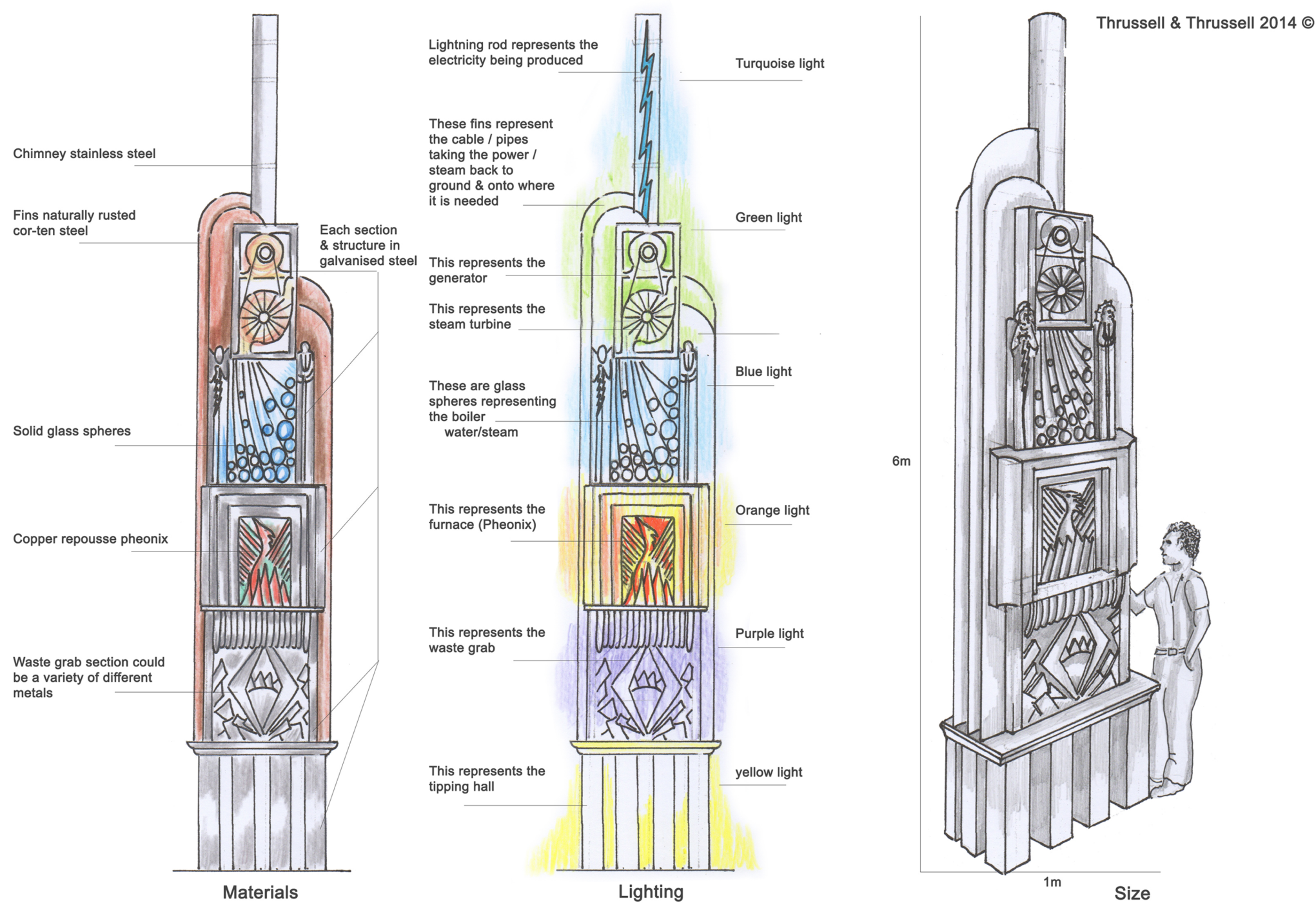
We would like to further explore ways of using new technologies and innovative ways of lighting the sculpture from within. Using different coloured lighting efforts to illuminate the different parts of the process from inside the sculpture and to illuminate the relief work on the front.

Materials

Having considered the aesthetics of the piece in the location and feel that a mixture of metals i.e. **cor-ten, galvanised steel, copper and stainless** compliment the ship building and engineering in the docks as well as the power plant's construction. We have also considered opportunities for community involvement and would like the opportunity to obtain some of the materials from the dock scrap yard.

We hope you enjoy our concept.

Concept Design



Having visited the proposed location of the sculpture we realised quickly that it needed to rise up above the **forest of traffic lights**. Often budgets do not allow for the creation of those big sculptures but we feel that we have perfected a way of going higher at a reasonable cost.

The way we would achieve this would be to make the piece in six sections that bolt together. This also gives us a great **opportunity to personalise** each section to a specific group in the **community** e.g. each section could be designed with a different school or group; for example the Phoenix section could be explored in depth with a class in school to give the pupils a chance to create copper plaques in our **copper beating repousse workshops**. The finished section can then be easily transported to the school for them to enjoy and feel a real part of the sculpture's creative process. When all the sections are complete we would bolt them together on-site where the community could see their work fit together and grow into this **six metre sculpture**. With the docks and the fire station being so close it would be nice to get them involved in the final assembly i.e. free use of crane for lifting equipment as well. The reason I say this is that installation so often takes a large chunk of the budget and we would like to spend as much of the budget on the sculpture rather than on the installation it would be great PR for the Navy or fire service.

Each part of this sculpture will be a **self-contained unit**. Which would be treated as a separate entity until the day of assembly all of the community groups we work with will have a chance to be involved in design process of each piece keeping the final installation for a more **exciting experience**.

You could compare it to making a rocket where different groups of people never see how their work fits into the project until final lunch. Creating a mood of excitement and awe. We could even call it "The Launch."

When the piece is finally completed and launched we feel people will connect with it in a much more personal way and also learn more about the plant in the design process, this is important as acceptance of anything new is often delayed by lack of information and involvement.

We pride ourselves in **facilitating community engagement** and have worked with many groups in the area.

Having created the Devonport Trail, we installed eighty plaques around the town all of which had a group helping in the design process.

Another Plymouth project "The Plym Valley Heritage Trail" that we are currently working on has twenty three pieces of artwork and this also has twenty three groups i.e. schools, history groups, parish council, cyclists / walkers, Sustrans, National Trust volunteers etc. This engagement was vital in the design process and is now paying off with the amount of positive feedback we are receiving.

The other important point to make is our work is virtually vandal proof, maintenance free and has a lifespan of fifty years plus.

Artist Statement

We are family business of Artist Metalsmiths specialising in public artwork, working from our studio in the heart of Bodmin Moor. We specialise in heritage and natural history themes, using mild steel, copper, stainless and cor-ten steel to create original public sculpture that tells a story of the areas history. Having worked in the public realm for the past twenty five year creating sculpture that is original, durable, vandal resistant, tactile and interpretative for all to enjoy.

As a father and son creative practice we have developed a unique way of working with communities to produce artwork that the community will except and take pride and ownership in. We pride ourselves in high quality artwork for public spaces and we always go the extra mile to create a piece that will fulfil and go behind the brief, for longevity and cultural value.

