

# RIVER CONNECTIONS

## Art & The River Ness



## YOUR RIVER, YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Please take a few moments to give us your views

The Highland Council is developing a Public Art Programme to enhance the riverside and complement the newly-built Flood Wall.

The £758,350 project has been commissioned by The Highland Council's Inverness City Arts Working Group and has funding approval from The City of Inverness Common Good Fund (£280,750) (37%), Creative Scotland (£305,600) (40%), The Highland Council (£106,000)(14%) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (£66,000)(9%).

Inverness City Arts is a Working Group of five Councillors, delegated by the City of Inverness Area Committee to oversee the River Ness Public Art Programme - Councillor Ken Gowans, Chair, Provost and City Leader Helen Carmichael, Councillor Thomas Prag, Councillor Bet McAllister and Councillor Graham Ross.

Six projects have been commissioned. Ideas from public consultation - including local residents, river users, school pupils and students - will assist the appointed artists in the creative approach to developing innovative and sympathetic artwork for the riverside. The artists for each project have been selected by Inverness City Arts, on the recommendation of an advisory panel of independent experts.



**River Connections:** a series of interventions along the river, including seating areas and poetry set into paving stones and copes of the flood wall which refer to the natural history and other river stories.



**The Gathering Place:** a special place for people to come together to enjoy the river and the views.



**The Sculptural Destination:** an iconic landmark to visit and interact with or to view from a distance.



**Rest Spaces:** relaxation areas for individuals or small groups who might informally gather along the river's edge.



**The Trail:** mapping the river to create a trail from the Ness Islands to the river mouth, including local stories, natural history, heritage and other practical knowledge accessed through a traditional paper map or digitally by mobile phone.



**Children's Riverside Water Feature:** a project informed by young people for young people to create an interactive play feature.

The Highland Council and partners Creative Scotland and Highlands & Islands Enterprise are seeking public opinion on the River Ness Arts Programme including the proposed siting of the main artwork "The Gathering Place" at Friar's Shott on the north end of Huntly Street, Inverness.

### CONTACT US

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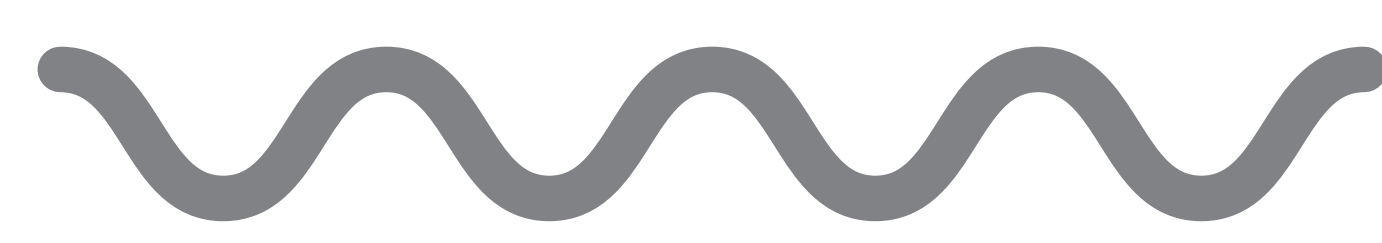
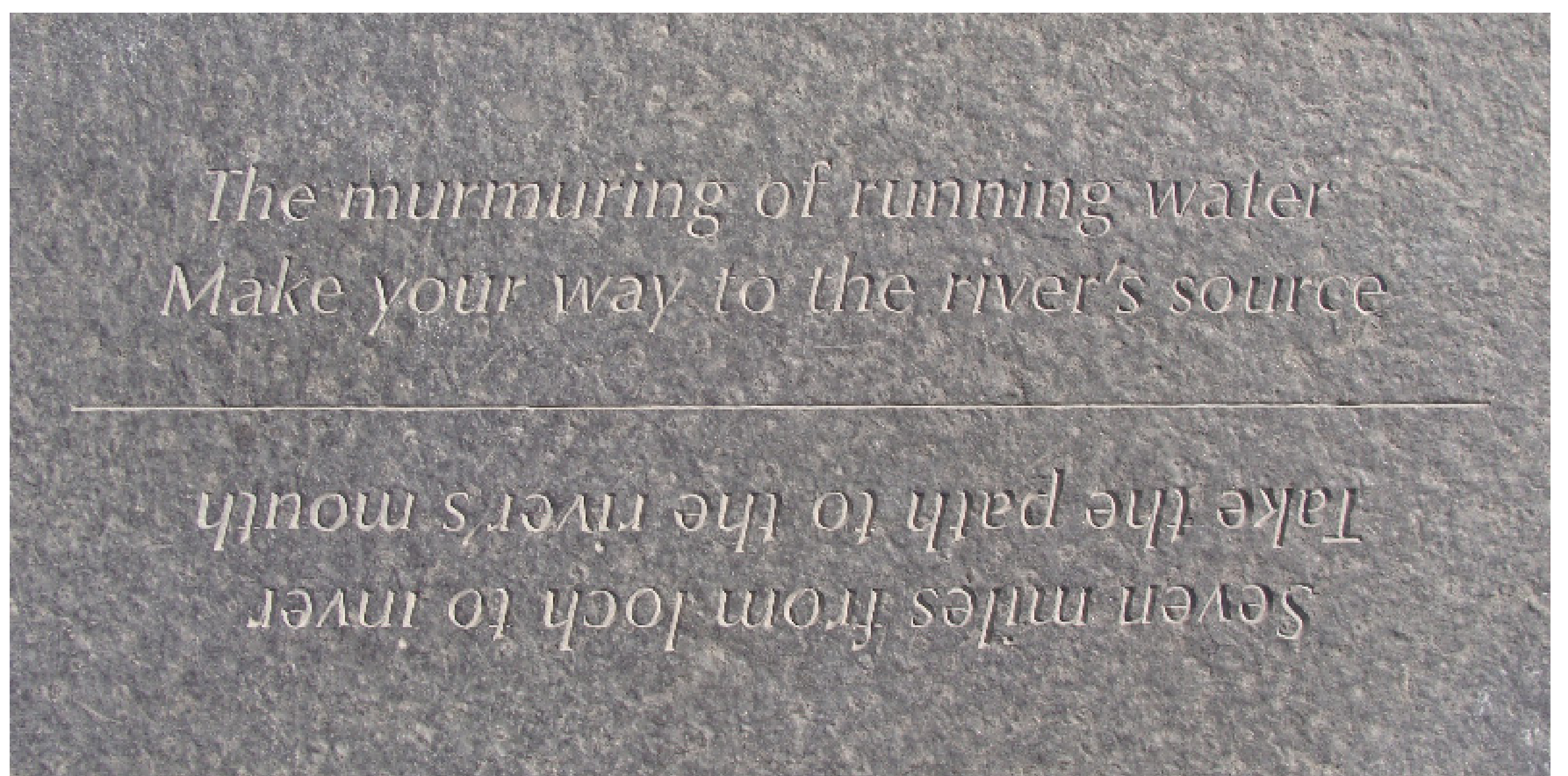
Mary Bourne

A series of interventions along the river, including seating areas and poetry set into the stones and copes of the flood wall which refer to the natural history and other river stories.

Mary Bourne was commissioned to consider how the River Ness has influenced the development of Inverness and how it connects the people to the history, geography and natural environment. She consulted with a wide range of people associated with the river including fishermen, local residents and business owners, countryside rangers, archaeologists on what the River Ness meant to them. She then collaborated with Edinburgh based poet, Ken Cockburn, who has produced a series of specially composed poems reflecting on the meaning of the river. Mary Bourne has incorporated these into her designs for a series of stainless steel plaques which are sited along the coping stones of the Flood Wall with some carved in to the paving stones on both sides of the river.

The artist and the poet worked with the community in Merkinch through poetry and stonecarving workshops to produce a series of 'circle poems' carved into portholes which have been installed at the end of the Flood Wall in Merkinch.

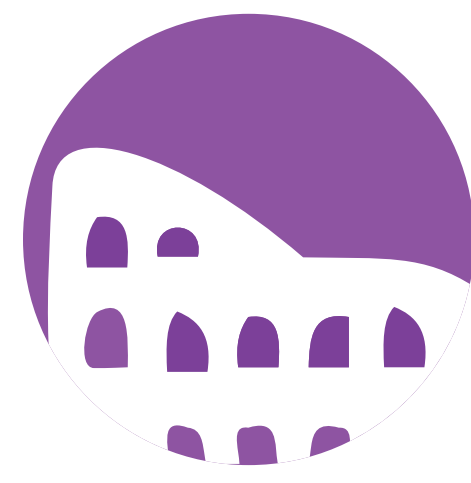
Mary will also be producing sculptural seating inspired by the river's stories for Bank Street in Spring 2016



Mary's work can be seen on [www.marybourne.co.uk](http://www.marybourne.co.uk)







# THE GATHERING PLACE

The collaborative team of Sans façon and KHBT

The Ness Pier is a tilting structure that extends the promenade over the River Ness. Bridging the aesthetic qualities of the River Ness and the city, the Ness Pier will offer people an intimate experience with the landscape.

*"The 'Ness Pier' design was chosen from a strong field of candidates as this proposal was supremely elegant and innovative and could become a truly iconic addition to the cultural landscape of the River Ness. It has the potential to greatly enhance the reputation of Inverness as a modern, forward looking city, that understands the value and importance of quality public art to enliven civic spaces and enrich the everyday cultural lives of locals and visitors alike."*

**Professor James Mooney, Evaluation Panel Member**

The Ness Pier will be a space for celebrations and gathering but also for the solitary observation and taking in the ebb and flow of the river. The tilting mechanism creates an unusual interactive experience. As crowds gather, the pier slowly tilts out over the river, stopping just above the water level.

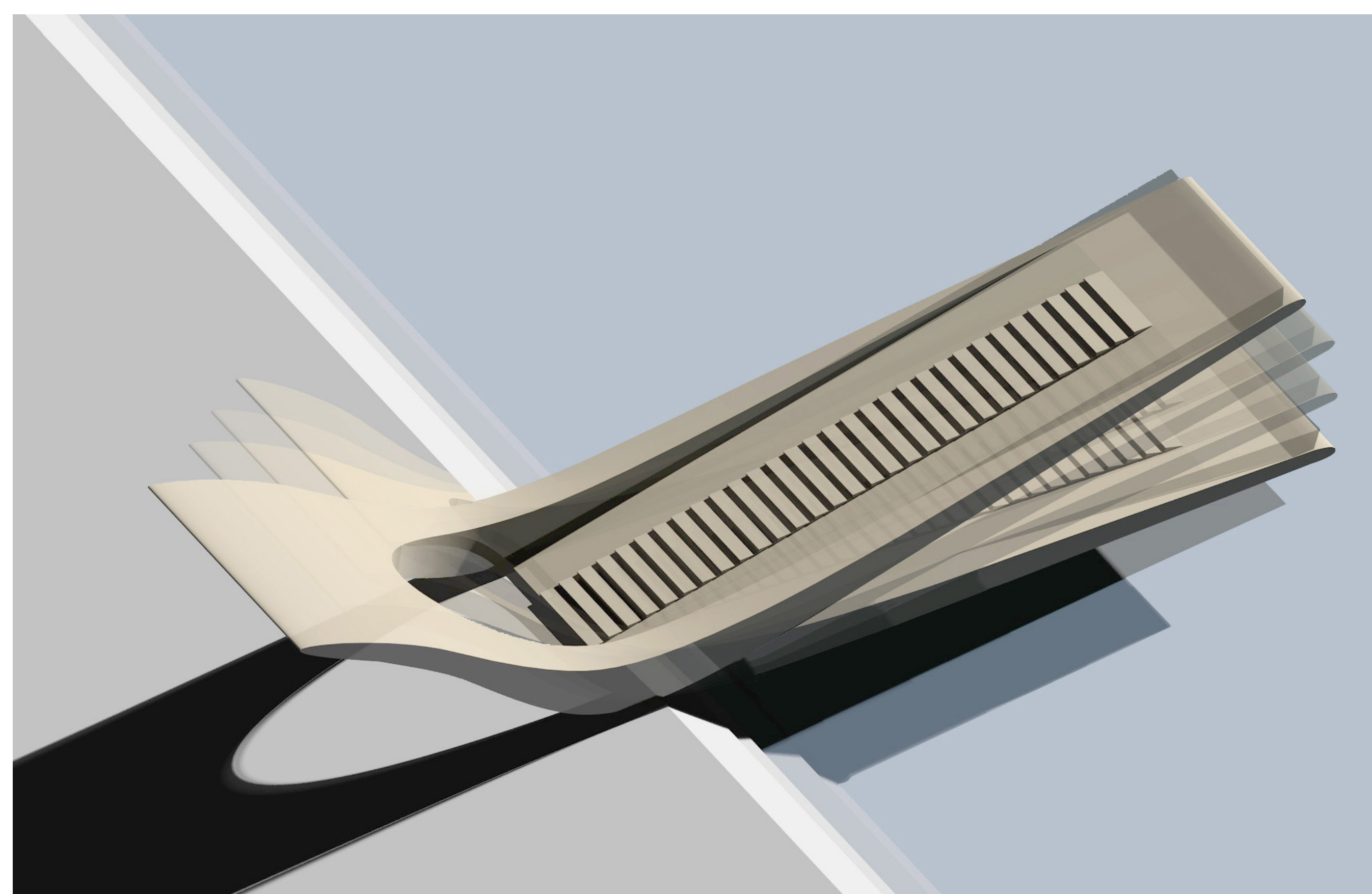
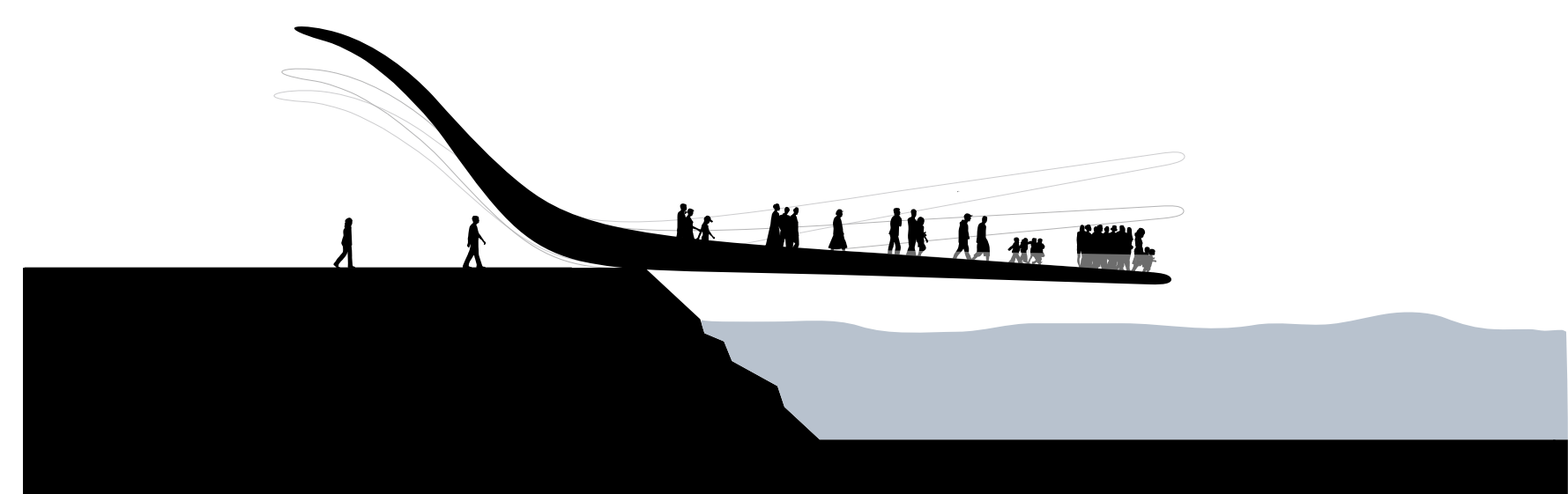
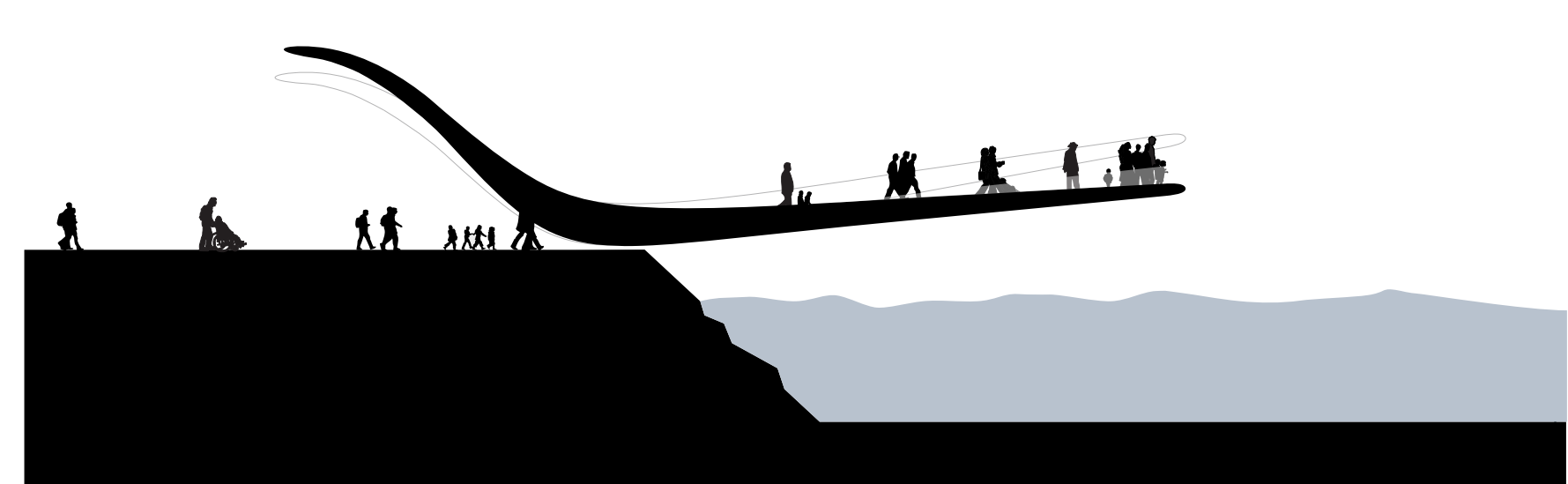
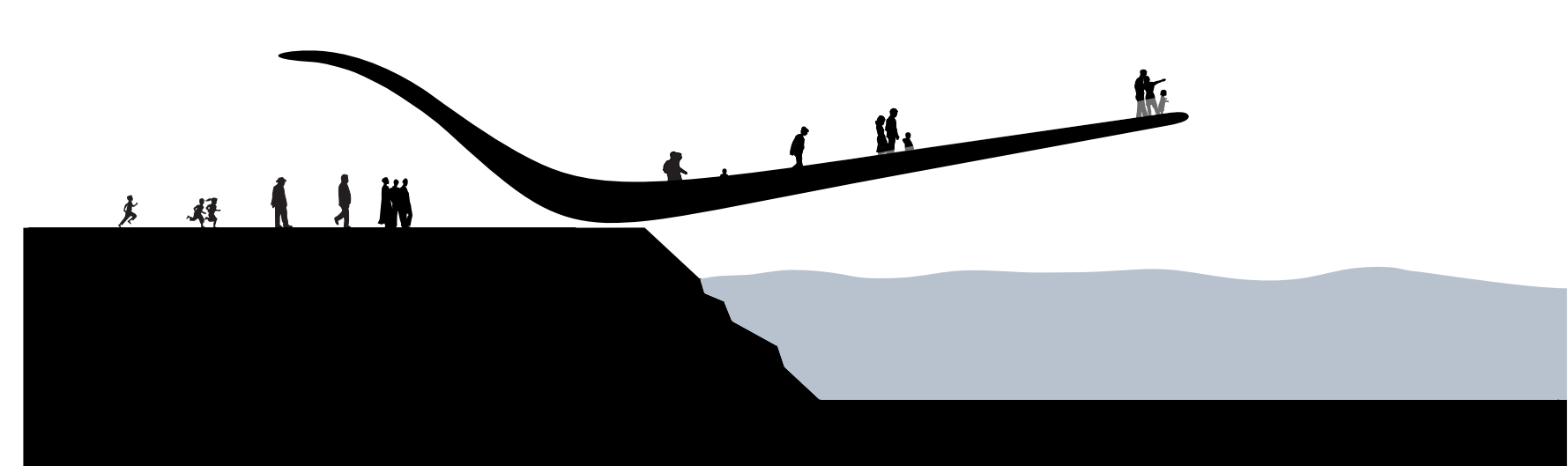
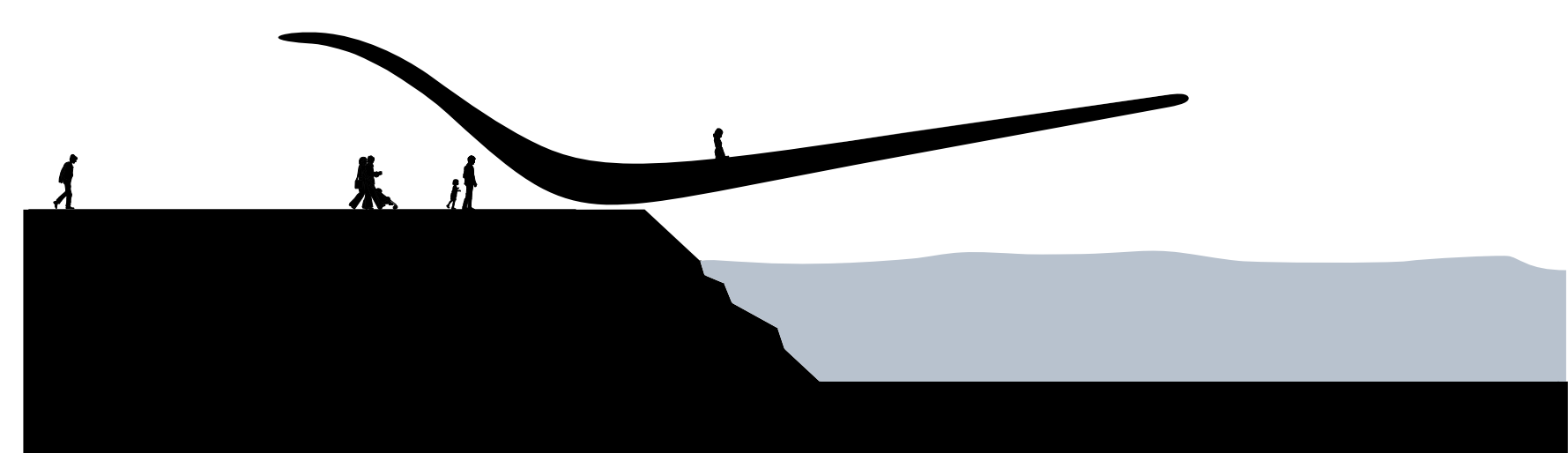


A collaborative effort between the art practice Sans façon and architecture studio KHBT are behind this intervention into the fabric of Inverness. Sans façon is an art practice that responds to the relationship between people and place. Working internationally, their approach renews awareness and tempts interaction with the surroundings and is realized through networks of communities, organizations and individuals.

KHBT is a creative studio set up by Karsten Huneck and Bernd Trümpler in London and Berlin, with an approach to architecture that fosters collaboration with musicians, filmmakers and artists. Their work has gained wide recognition including the Kunsthuelle Liverpool, Haus Berge and No1 Balfour Place.



**Length:** Overall ca. 25m  
Accessible Platform ca. 17m  
**Width:** ca. 6,0m at Entrance  
ca. 4,5m at Tipping Point  
ca. 5m  
**Height:**  
**Material:** Decking and Cladding Reclaimed Oak  
Structure (invisible) Steel  
Balustrade Steel / Glass  
**Movement Angle:** 15 degrees  
**Hydraulic Damping System (passive):** 1 Piston  
Counterweight within Canopy (invisible) enables movement back to original position.



KHBT and Sans façon's work can be seen on

[www.khbt.eu](http://www.khbt.eu)

[www.sansfacon.org](http://www.sansfacon.org)







# REST SPACES

## Dress for the Weather

Rest Spaces will result in the creation of a number spaces to accommodate individuals or small groups who might informally gather along the river's edge to relax and enjoy the river.



Rest Spaces will encourage people to linger, sit, relax or pause at key places along the River Ness and have a positive experience whether this is from the perspective of a regular walker, local resident or an international visitor seeking to learn more about this significant part of the city.

Dress for the Weather work in the fields of architecture and art to produce work which engages with and responds strongly to its context.

The practice take an approach to this project that focuses strongly on connecting people with the river by providing opportunities for individuals, couples and groups to stop and dwell along the banks of the River Ness. The concepts behind the different types of rest spaces are inspired, partly, by the wildlife

local to the river by suggesting interventions that encourage people to stop and enjoy the river in a variety of ways: to perch, to explore, to bask, to gather.

Existing small scale architectural and urban forms that allow for specific sizes of small groups to come together or for an individual to rest were also explored in our development so far.

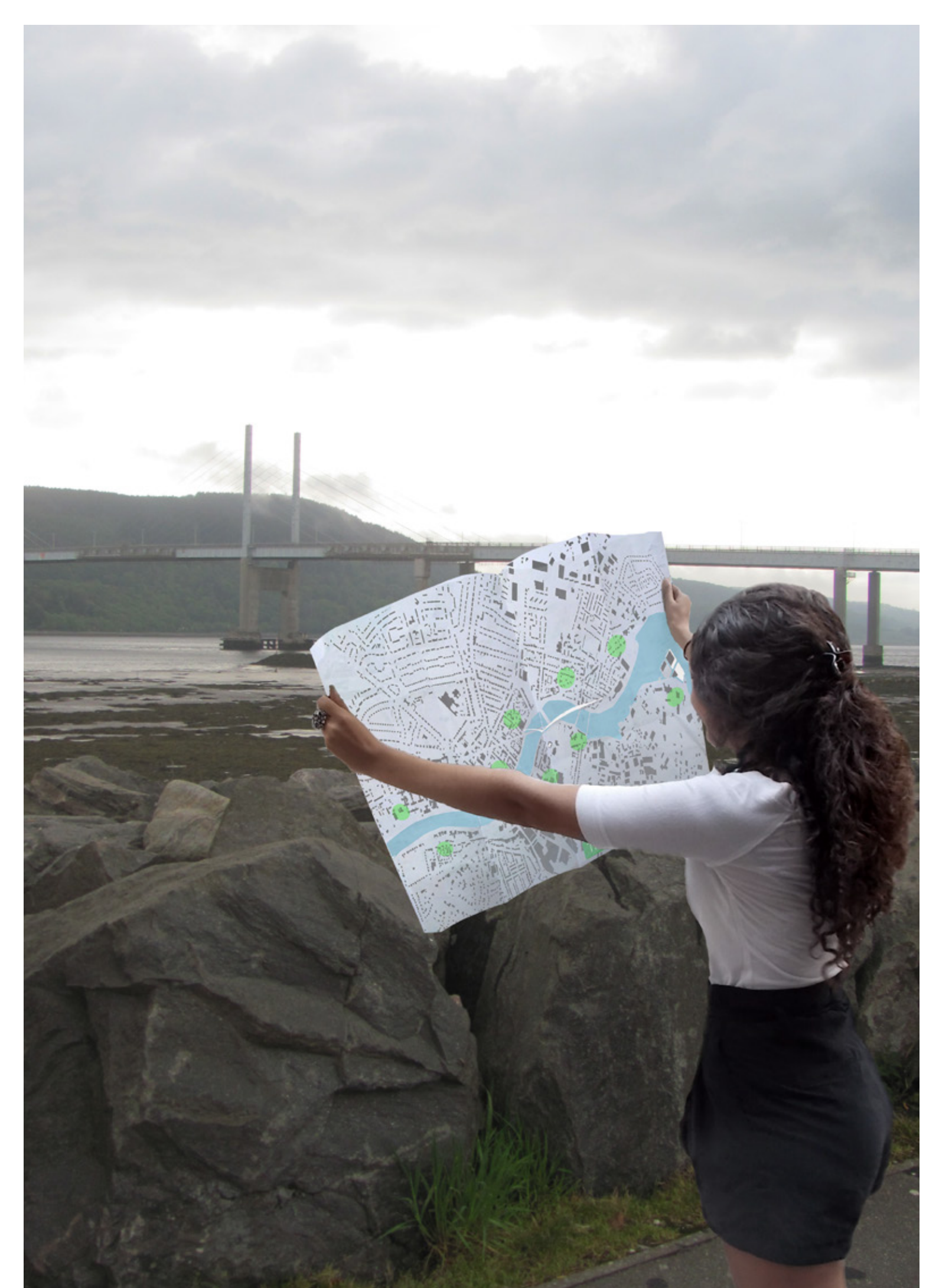
'The stoop' (or front stair) for example provides a seating area for a small number of close friends or family to dwell off the line of the street while taking in all that is going along it. It is interesting to us how these spaces can be used, abstracted and combined with site constraints and opportunities to provide a purpose on the River Ness.



# THE TRAIL

## Dress for the Weather

The Trail project shall result in the creation of a series of interventions - a trail and route around the River Ness that links the this stretch of river including Merkinch and up to the Ness Islands.



The Trail will become a resource for the city of Inverness, it's inhabitants and it's visitors. The size and geography of the city make it ideal for exploring on foot, by bike or even on the River Ness. It is these explorations which we seek to encourage and enhance through our approach to The Trail.

The project will consist of many layers of interpretation through different mediums and allow people to chose their own way.

A number of beautifully designed and crafted way markers will be introduced around Inverness as well as a physical, graphic map available from key locations. These physical artefacts will lead to a wealth of information and data held online.

Part of this work will include connecting the new public artworks along the River Ness through providing interpretation and information. The Trail will also include walking / cycling routes, information on the art and architecture of the city, natural heritage as well more abstract features encouraging visitors to move through the city.

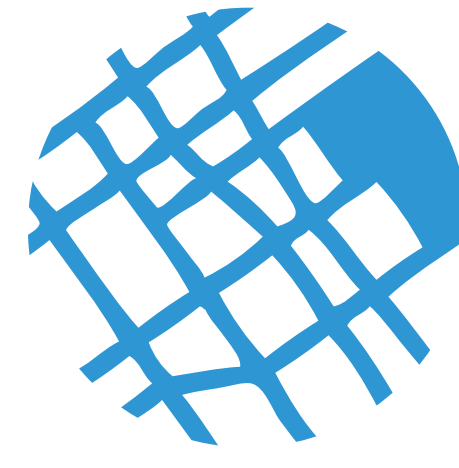
We seek the input from walkers, cyclists, anglers, heritage enthusiasts, architects, town planners, bird-watchers and many more. If you have a favourite spot in or route through the city then we'd love to hear about it.



Dress for the Weather's work can be seen on [www.dressfortheweather.co.uk](http://www.dressfortheweather.co.uk)







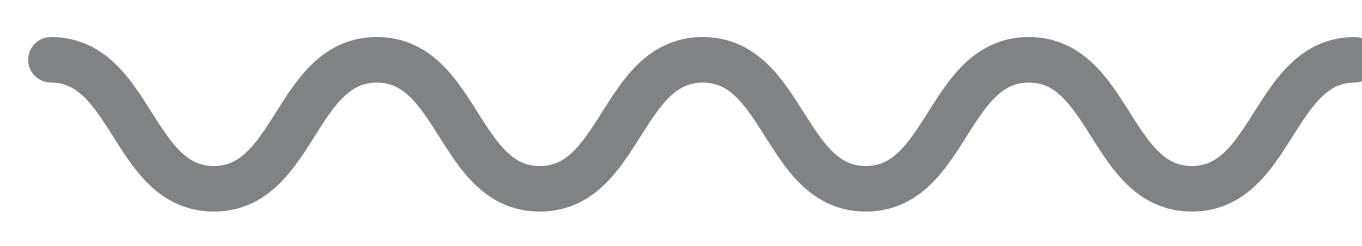
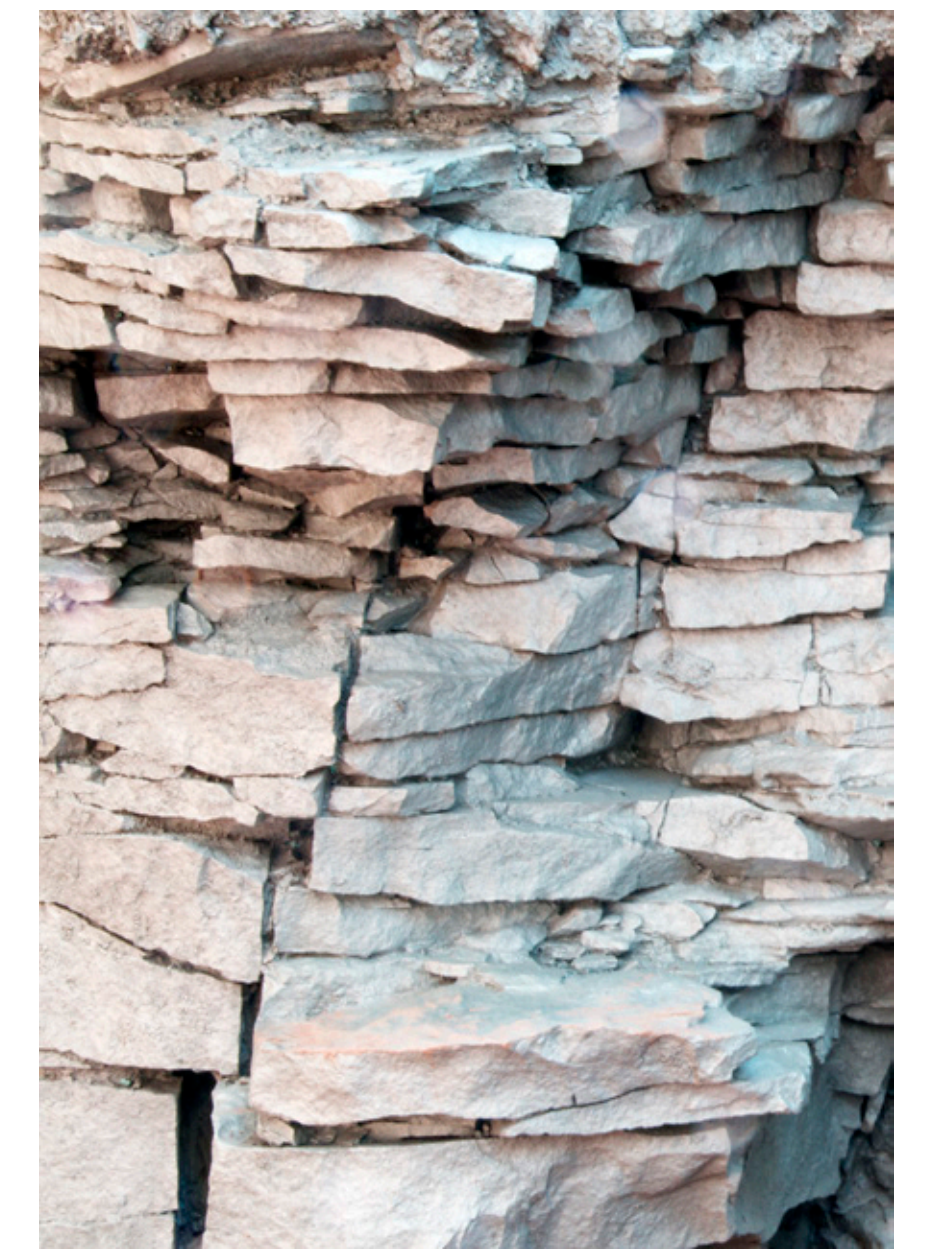
# SCULPTURAL DESTINATION

Annie Cattrell

The Sculptural Destination will result in the creation of an iconic and interactive artwork, sited to provide a 'destination' which will contribute to the regeneration of an underused or underdeveloped area and encourage people to explore the length of the river.

In an artwork entitled 'Seer,' Annie Cattrell will be combining scientific method - such as evidence based enquiry into the geology of the Great Glen Fault area - with folk lore, considering the cultural need through the ages for predictions, forecasting and belief systems to attempt to determine the future. The sculpture would create an interactive space in two sections which people could stand between and envisage future positive dreams.

- Cast of rockfaces on each side of the Great Glen Fault
- Intricate detail on interior surfaces
- Material: resin with brass powder to give a warm golden colouring



# CHILDREN'S RIVERSIDE WATER FEATURE

Young People's Participatory Project - an artwork informed by and for young people to create an interactive playspace on the riverside.



Artist: TBC  
Site: TBC

The Children's Riverside Water Feature is being developed in conjunction with Inverness College, UHI. Art students working with secondary school pupils will engage with the artist in the development of an interactive artwork on the riverside, from initial specifications to final delivery.

The artwork will be:

- Interactive
- Include a water component to provide a tangible link with the River Ness
- Reflect the natural heritage and social culture of Inverness and the Highlands (to engender a sense of place)
- Educational, fun and informative











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