

Scarborough Harbour: Waking a sleeping beauty

Scarborough is the UK's first resort. It is also one of its most attractive. Despite this, Scarborough has historically suffered from under-investment and an over-reliance on a highly seasonal tourist trade.

The historic harbour was identified as a priority in the town's renaissance and LDA Design was appointed to work to shape its transformation.

LDA Design negotiated between seemingly polarised positions to produce a scheme that received unanimous approval, de-bunking the idea of using Victorian pastiche street components from a catalogue in favour of bespoke elements that were 'uniquely Scarborough'.

In a radical step, the design saw security fencing around the fishing quay removed and the quay opened up to public access. Widened pavements made room for bespoke timber 'mast lights' and a series of 'loafer' seats with fluid forms that offer places to sunbathe, sit or perch. The improvements have helped to stimulate inward investment and have played a major part in Scarborough winning the Most Enterprising Town in Britain and Most Enterprising Town in Europe awards.



Client
Scarborough Borough Council, Yorkshire Forward

Location
Scarborough, North Yorkshire

Partners
Mouchel, Gardiner and Theobald, Speirs and Major Associates

Services Used
Landscape Architecture

Area
2 ha

¹ 'Loafer seat' and mast lights

Image © Mike Williams Photography



¹ 'Loafer' seat and mast lights with views opened up across working harbour

² A transformed harbour

³ Sandside after dark with beacon lights on top of the new masts

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