SPOKANE RIVERFRONT PARK ARTWORK: STEPWELL



INSPIRATION

Borrowing name and inspiration from the famous stepwells of western India, the Spokane Stepwell will provide a destination for social gathering and creative performance, as well as relaxation and quiet contemplation within the natural beauty of Spokane's Riverfront Park.

Perched gingerly on the sloping lawn of the Clocktower Bowl, Stepwell will entice visitors with its beguiling, improbably cantilevered form. The solid mass of the sculpture, hewn from stacked layers of Alaskan Yellow Cedar, springs up and out from just two points, with no visible means of supporting its own considerable heft.

Originating as a rectangular bowl, the form splits along a diagonal in plan, producing two opposing halves which skew apart to form apertures on either side. As visitors approach the sculpture, they will discover these apertures allow passage into the bowl's interior spaces, a pair of amphitheater-like stepped slopes facing in toward one another. The stepped seating within each amphitheater registers the curved contours of the sculpture's outer form, with additional blending and tapering to provide side walls, railings, and a secure path upward. As visitors traverse the steps, the experience of the sculpture's interior evolves. For those sitting low within the bowl, sloped side walls will screen out views of the surrounding landscape, instead framing the open sky above. Peering across the bowl, visitors may find themselves engaged in mutual spectatorship with revelers lounging on the opposing slope. As they climb, however, visitors will reconnect with the landscape again, this time from an elevated vantage. Gazing out from the uppermost platforms, visitors will encounter sweeping views over the Spokane River to the southwest, the clocktower to the west, and the expo pavilion to the northeast.



DESCRIPTION

Stepwell will be constructed out of laminated layers of solid Alaskan Yellow Cedar glu-lam beams and a concealed steel structure anchored to concrete footings and piles.

Highly durable and resistant to weathering over time, Alaskan Yellow Cedar naturally ages from its initial color to an attractive silvery gray. Should the owner wish to maintain the initial appearance of the wood, or preserve its appearance at a particular stage in the graying process, sealant may be applied on site. To maintain the seal, a new coat of sealant should be applied every few years thereafter.

In order to ensure visitor comfort, the Stepwell's internal structure must be exceptionally stiff, even under eccentric loading. To that end, a steel frame structure embedded within the glulam layers supports the structure's dramatic cantilever while enabling a slender sectional depth throughout.









HÖWELER+YOON ARCHITECTURE, LLP

SPOKANE RIVERFRONT PARK ARTWORK



















STEP WELL SIZE

COMPONENTS





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REVISED PRICING DRAWINGS



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DRAWN BY - NL, NN, DH

SCALE VARIES

DATE



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DRAWN BY - NL, NN, DH

SPOKANE RIVERFRONT PARK JOB NO. 1610

SCALE VARIES

PROJECT

DATE



OCCUPANCY



BUDGET

relevant information	Pricing
4 anchors into bedrock	\$14,500
	\$15,000
~46,528 lbs / 768 cubic feet	\$167,000
6x6x3/8 steel tube frame	\$20,000
	\$30,000
	\$7,500
2,295 square feet	\$3,500
65 lf mesh	\$13,000 (for reference, not included)
65 lf mesh	\$19,500 (for reference, not included)
200 cubic feet	\$48,500
30 lf metal	\$3,000
	\$50,000
	\$359,000
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PLANNED PROJECT BUDGE	Г	\$365,000
10% CONTINGENCY		\$45,000
TAXES		\$40,000
ARTIST FEE	includes Artist travel & liability insurance	\$50,000
TOTAL		\$500,000

*If the budget were to be increased, the overall size of the sculpture would increase as well. The largest percentage of the project cost comes simply from the volume of wood material. The selected site would have room for a larger sculpture, and an increase in size to the Stepwell would increase its capacity and make it a more dramatic piece.

MAINTENANCE

Stepwell will not require much specialized maintenance outside of what one would expect as routine for any exterior structure. The sculpture should be regularly observed for indications of potential failure or issue. The steel frame will be finished after its installation so that any concerns surrounding rusting or weathering will be addressed.

The species of wood material is durable enough to be left untreated and unprotected without concern to its integrity. Left untreated, the wood will naturally fade from its initial yellowish appearance to a cooler tone. However, similar to an exterior wood deck or siding material, a sealant can be applied to help maintain a certain appearance of the wood. Typically these sealants have a lifespan of a few years, requiring the sealant to be reapplied periodically to maintain its appearance.



EXAMPLE OF WOOD SPECIES LEFT USED AS STRUCTURAL BEAM TOP LEFT/RIGHT: HENRY DAVID THOREAU FOOTBRIDGE BY GRAY ORGANSCHI BOTTOM: SIMCOE WAVEDECK BY WEST8 + DTAH

SCHEDULE

				April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Construction Documents:		4	Months												
Fabrication & Installation:	Steel Fabrication Steel Installation	2	Months Months												
	Wood Fabrication Wood Installation Wood Finishing	4 2 1	Months Months Month												
	Site Preparation Site Finishing	2 1	Months Month												
Completion															
Total		12	Months												

LIGHTING STRATEGY

Stepwell does not currently include lighting within the proposed budget. However, if lighting were to be included the strategy would be to provide a general wash of moonlighting to illuminate the exterior of the sculpture. The interior of the sculpture could integrate some general lighting to help illuminate and create a glow within the sculpture to help invite visitors up within the sculpture.





ALTERNATE ARTWORK

If there is a substantial increase in budget, the earlier artwork concept, Earth Ring, can be implemented. This concept envisions a viewing platform as a large, steel ring tangential to the landscape, providing visitors with previously unattainable views of the park's beauty. This concept was highly acclaimed throughout the design and decision-making process but was determined too expensive for consideration after initial engineering and estimating.



