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Centre Pier, Galway Harbour Eire

Our competition entry for a world class facility on the Centre Pier in Galway Harbour reflects both the city's cultural and maritime heritage and was influenced by a number of factors; environmental, historic and genius loci.

The ability for the "Centre Pier" to function all year round, supporting and hosting the many festivals and events of Galway and providing a new dynamic gathering place for the City, is seen as critical to the overall success of the project.

Climate/Environment

The principal and unifying feature of the design is the free standing north light roof structure which provides shelter from the Atlantic weather, acting as a giant umbrella over the centre pier. This roof structure also gives shelter to the main spectator space and stage as well as the external cafe/restaurant areas overlooking the Harbour and Marina. The roof structure provides solar shading to the exhibition, retail/restaurants and office accommodation, reducing reliance on cooling plant, whilst also converting daylight to electricity.

Historic/City of the Tribes

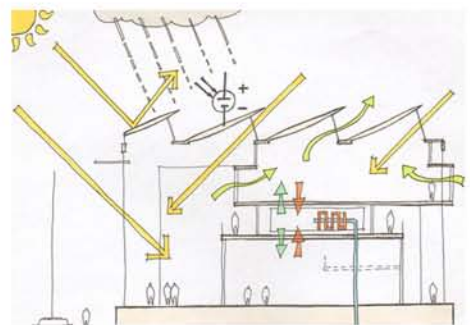
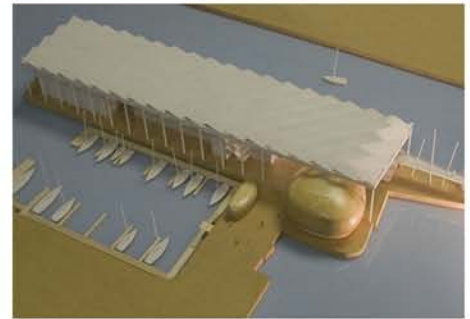
The architectural expression and forms have been derived from and celebrate the history of Galway. The form of the "Stage" and the smaller marine facilities building represent river stones, being taken from the River Corrib which flows to the South of the site. The rivers original name of "Gaillimhe" from which Galway is derived means stony. The black colouration of these forms is taken from the black pitch hull of the Galway Hooker, whilst the Hookers distinctive sail form, provides inspiration for the diagonally cut North light roof structure.

To celebrate the fourteen families who originated the "City of the Tribes", the architectural form is arranged as fourteen regular bays plus one large bay over the spectator space, supporting the over sailing roof structure. Each of the regular bays is crowned by a screen printed glass "brise soleil". Our initial suggestion was that each of the fourteen glass panels carries a representation of the families' coat of arms with the Galway coat of arms running throughout as a coherent theme. The opportunity exists to involve local artists to provide further ideas and artwork to symbolise the Tribes.

Genius Loci

The whole composition responds to the location of the unique site, taking advantage of the Harbour/Marina setting and the magnificent views out to Galway Bay.

Together the range of facilities and attractions reflecting the history and culture of Galway whilst responding to the climate and environment could provide a vibrant and memorable place and new destination for Galway, maximising the future usage and enjoyment of the Centre Pier site.



Quick Facts

- + 2010 Competition Entry
- + Strong environmental agenda
- + Facilities provided include:
 - + 'stage' with 1000-1500 spectator capacity
 - + Exhibition space
 - + Restaurant / cafe / retail
 - + Tourist information and Marina facilities
 - + Flexible office space

Contact details

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