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Bsc Architecture

Technology and Environment

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Police Memorial Report

The University of Wales Trinity St David was given the task by South Wales Police to design a memorial for the police force that will be located in Bute park Cardiff. The requirements for the memorial were to be as followed: it had to be durable and withstand the test of time with the elements, it had to be easy to erect and low maintenance, there had to be an allocated space for the police roll of honour crest and the design was to be no bigger than 4.6ft in height sitting on a 6ftx6ft plinth. Finally, the brief we were given also urged us to think of some of the key words and phrases of the police force when designing our memorial such as 'fairness', 'integrity', 'diligence', 'justice', 'protect' and 'serve' which are some of the key ideologies of the police force. We were put into groups for this task and after finding out our groups, we decided to have a Microsoft teams call as soon as we had the brief from Ian to discuss initial ideas along with what we thought the South Wales Police stood for.

Our first meeting we had, we decided to set the task for each of us to have a look online for some inspiration and ideas of existing memorial and statues and analyse these as a group and discuss what we liked and disliked. We discussed a few different examples such as the Anthem Veterans Memorial in Arizona, the National Police Memorial in London and a few more all of which can be seen in our 'Initial Ideas' board on miro. Following on from our existing memorials discussion, we then developed some initial ideas taking inspiration from these memorials. Myself, Cameron, Gwion and Geraint all had sketched up some rough ideas of a proposed memorial sticking with the brief requirements but not going into huge detail as this task was more for us to discuss some ideas and further expand towards a final design. We initially discussed the idea of a memorial that would differ in design depending on the perspective you looked at it from, and played with the idea of maybe three or four different objects positioned behind each other in such a way that when aligned perfectly they would display a message or image representing the police. However, upon further discussion of this we decided we wanted to keep it simple and elegant and in some ways mysterious for the viewer, drawing them in to take a closer look.

We settled on a final design after much thought as shown in our 'final design' section of the Miro board which consisted of three main elements; two halves of an oval shaped design wrapping around and protecting a central piece that displayed the crest that was required by the brief. We decided to go for this design as we felt it displayed the idea of protection that the South Wales Police provide the citizens of Wales everyday, the two halves of the oval design signify cupped hands protecting the precious content within. Along with the theme of protection, it also came to our attention that the design somewhat resembled a rib cage, wrapping around and protecting a heart which we felt was a perfect metaphor for the Police force as they do act as the rib cage to society, protecting it the best they can. I was personally allocated the task of looking up local materials we could use and what would be best and I decided that Welsh slate would be ideal for the plinth of our design as it can sustain through the elements extremely well and does not tend to wear as much as other materials. Also settled on the main two half ovals as being stone from the Welsh countryside as it blends in with the surroundings well and again requires very little maintenance and attention.

After settling on this design, we then allocated tasks to each individual in order to get a detailed site analysis of Bute park so we could decide where we wanted to place the memorial. I remember I was given the task of getting the sun path and noise pollution done. This was a bit of a hiccup in the groups project as we did assign some for the site analysis to Kieran who was in our group, however he did not complete his tasks and I have to say his overall input to the group task was disappointing as numerous times we would discuss when we were going to meet and he would not attend and we would also assign tasks for us all to complete and he would not complete them, leaving the rest of us to work together to complete his work load.

After completing the site analysis, we then decided upon the best place to locate the memorial in the park as you can see on our Miro board. The location was in the central area of the park as we felt that was where the least amount of noise pollution would hit. We also ensured that our design would be pointed towards the nearby Police station too just as a reminder that the police are always there watching over us keeping us safe. After we decided our location I then drew up the existing site plan along with the proposed plan with our memorial. We were drawn to the idea of a path way through the trees to our memorial as it almost felt like a journey towards it then, which is shown in our proposed site plan.

Finally, we then developed some final working drawings and a scale model of our memorial in order to finalise our design and ensure that the design could be built. I myself was given the task to elaborate on the materials research so we can use this info to back up our selection of them when showing our work. After we had a completed set of drawings and materials information, Cameron then developed a 1:10 model of our memorial and Geraint created a 3D model on Sketchup in order to show some contextual images. Overall I believe it was a great success and I am happy with our design. Despite some members of the group not really contributing, I believe that those of us who did have developed a well thought out design which would honour the police and have stuck to the brief as required.