



Site Specific Proposal - Steve Allison

Swansea Station

Site

Swansea railway Station is located close to the centre of town. It is located on the High Street at the intersection with Alexandra Road. The station is the gateway to Swansea for rail travellers and provides a method of travel for local residents. My personal attachment is two fold. I pass through the station on my way to campus. I also believe there are too many cars on the roads and see the railway as a vital tool in the fight to reduce road traffic. The site is easily accessible with no steps or obstacles. The platforms are only accessible by ticket holders. Nevertheless the foyer is open to anyone at any time. There is also a large paved area outside the station which is open for public access.

Research

Swansea Station is owned by Network Rail. The station is the last remaining of the seven stations that had Swansea in their name. Formerly known as Swansea High Street. The name was changed to Swansea, dropping the 'High Street' in 1968. The station was originally opened in 1850 and was enlarged by The Great Western Railway in 1879 and again in the 1930s. The

station today exists in the form of the 1930's improvements although platform four has been lengthened to accommodate longer trains. Nothing exists of the original 1850 building.

The station has a close connection with the art world. There is a 90 foot mural on platform 4 depicting Swansea moving from the past present and future. The mural was painted by David Long and Twn Williams. The concept was the result of consultation with several community groups.

Outside the station, on the ground are the words "Ambition is Critical", a micro poem by David Hughes. This was commissioned by the city council as a counter to the phrase, "Swansea is the graveyard of ambition" incorrectly attributed to Dylan Thomas.

Suggested 'theme/ context'

The railway station is, in many instances, the gateway to Swansea. Whilst the city is also accessible by road, there is a far stronger sense of arrival walking out of the station and into the town. My suggestion would be a project involving the importance of the station to the community and commerce of the city. The project would reflect on the importance of the station throughout the years and into the future. It would also reflect on how Swansea, both the city and the community, has benefited from having a mainline rail link.

Images







