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## Kelpie designs

Posted by renata4711 - 2007/12/30 09:43

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Hi everyone,

could someone please explain to me WHO made the final decision about the Kelpie heads, and HOW that decision was arrived at?

I have heard people say that, if statues have to be there at all, they would have preferred statues of the CLYDESDALE horses which used to tow barges and narrowboats.

thanks

Renata

Edinburgh

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## Re:Kelpie designs

Posted by marydoll - 2007/12/30 12:41

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Hi,

There is already a sculpture of the Clydesdale Horse on the M8 near Glasgow so perhaps this is why a different design was chosen.

If you visit Andy Scott's website at <http://www.thekelpies.co.uk> you can see the existing Clydesdale artwork and the proposed Kelpie structures.

Personally I have no preference either way and I am simply delighted that the project will go ahead with whatever design is chosen and I look forward to watching the site being developed and opened to the public.

I have more concerns regarding the public access as I already use the area to walk my dog, as do a lot of other people. The area is enclosed and safe from cars etc so it is a great local facility for me to use and I hope the development won't prohibit dog's and doesn't prevent me enjoying the area in the future.

I'm sure all will be revealed in coming months.

Mavis

Falkirk

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## Re:Kelpie designs

Posted by admin - 2008/01/06 14:30

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Hi Renata,

I contacted Andy Scott (the Kelpie designer) to ask the same question as yourself and had the reply shown below..

"The kelpie idea originated from the very earliest notion of a large counter-weight lever structure which would act as a boat lift. The earliest images of that idea looked very loosely like a horse's head. One of the senior engineers of BW, George Balingier, hit upon the idea of The kelpie as a theme for the structure, linking with the Scottish mythology. At this point he and the engineers at BW approached me due to my established portfolio of equine sculpture works, as well as many other large scale commissions and asked me to develop the idea.

I duly did so and several interpretations evolved, some literal, some very mythical and "fanciful". However as I researched and developed the idea I was struck more by the historical relationships of horses to the canal and the role they played in society in the past. Not only would they have been used in the construction of the canal and obviously pulled barges, they would have worked the fields around the canals, and worked in the factories and towns along the length of the waterway. So for me the Kelpies theme was really a catalyst for deeper inspiration to celebrate the role of horses in Scottish life. Story has it the biggest horse in Britain "Carnera" used to work in Falkirk... a lovely piece of historical synergy."

I hope this satisfies some of your inquiry and hopefully we can have Andy Scott on the forum at some point to answer in more detail other questions such as time scale etc for the project.

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regards..

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