

PROJECT PROFILE

Fishermen Group Fishermen's Memorial Structural Design

Wilkie Civil Engineering (Wilkie) was approached by a group of fishermen to assist in creating a memorial for those who pioneered the professional fishing industries in Fremantle and Rockingham. Wilkie was involved in the structural design of a jetty, which was crafted out of three different materials, each material replicating a different era that the previous generations of fishermen had worked in.

OUTCOME

Wilkie successfully completed the structural design of the jetty. A much loved and iconic monument in Fremantle was created, which was made possible because the community shared the passion to remember the past and salute the future.

BACKGROUND

Wilkie was approached by a group of fishermen who wanted a memorial as a sign of recognition for those who started the fishing industries in Fremantle and Rockingham. They raised one million dollars which included contributions from the government, private sector and the Fremantle Council. An architect designed the concept of the jetty and a sculptor provided two life-size brass sculptures. The memorial is the fishermen's link between the ocean, the land and his home. Wilkie was involved in the structural engineering design of the project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objective was to create a jetty made from different materials, to replicate the different eras the fishermen had worked in. The sculptures represent the past and the future, and symbolise the generations that have worked together to forge the industry that is today worth over a billion dollars.

CHALLENGES

The space in the Fremantle harbour was restricted, so the design had to be made to fit. This also meant that assembly space needed to be taken into account in the design. Furthermore, there was only limited time to execute the project.

OUR APPROACH

To reflect the different eras that the different generations of fishermen had worked in, the approach was to utilise different materials. The jetty was crafted out of jarrah, concrete and steel.

On the back of the jetty is an honour board displaying the names of 608 professional fishermen and a short story about the history of the industry. A sign post was used for the construction of this board, which consisted of timber posts each 5 metres high and 200mm thick.

To negotiate the logistic and space restrictions the memorial was created in over 20 pieces, with assembly on site. Wilkie was involved in all aspects of the structural design of the project and also supervised the assembly on site.

