

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, Hyde Park, London

The work to turn the design of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain from an artist's impression into reality has involved skilled craftsmen from across the UK and groundbreaking high-tech production techniques.

Geoffrey Osborne Ltd. was appointed as main contractor, responsible for the overall management of the entire Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial construction contract, including civil engineering, mechanical engineering, landscaping and stonemasonry. Stone masonry experts Cathedral Works Organisation, a subsidiary of Geoffrey Osborne Ltd. were given responsibility for managing the extraction, cutting and placement of the stone for the Memorial.

The design had to face up to the practical issues of manufacturing. The working of the stone would require both precision and speed. Skilled stonemasons would have been able to produce the work by hand but it would have taken them well over a year. Using the latest CNC machines, guided by computer files this could be cut to seven months.



Award Winner
Natural Stone Awards
2006
Category: Design
& Technology
Innovation in Stone

The stone selected for the Memorial was 'De Lank' granite from Ennstone Breedon Ltd's quarry in Cornwall. This stone is hardwearing and non-porous, which means the fountain will be a long-lasting creation. Also 'De Lank' is unique amongst UK granites because of its light colouring.



After a Europe-wide search by CWO the stonecutters best able to do the complex and technically demanding work of cutting the granite were found to be S. McConnell and Sons, located in the countryside of County Down, Northern Ireland. The completed files of the 550 stone sections were subsequently sent to S. McConnell and sons. Prototypes were cut during June/July and the actual stone cutting began in August using granite extracted from the Cornish quarry.

Work began on site in June 2003 with the initial stages of removing topsoil and laying foundations. This was followed by the assembly of the stone sections and then the re-establishment of the surrounding parkland in Spring 2004. Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the Memorial Fountain on the 6th July 2004.

Client: Department of Culture Media & Sport
Project Managers: Royal Parks Agency
Main Contractor: Geoffrey Osborne Limited.
Specialist Stone Contractor: CWO
Designers: Kathryn Gustafson and Neil Porter
Engineers: Arup Associates
Value: £1,170,000

SCULPTURES AND MONUMENTS