Total Policing Northumbria Police Head Quarters 2011

Abstract

Large scale public art commission to design and fabricate glass, stainless steel and light work to be sited in front of the new state of the art building housing the Northumbria Area Command Head Quarters. Technically, this work has been developed from and is based on research carried out through the Technology Strategy Board funded solar cell seating project, where knowledge gained from the previous work into LED lighting has informed the development of this innovative public art piece.

Main Text

The most important design criteria for this public artwork are that it is seen to reflect the values of the Northumbria Police Authority. Initial research for this commission was centred on studying the Northumbria Police 2020 Vision document, setting out the Total Policing philosophy and core values. This gave insight into how the Police operate and how this might be reflected in the artwork and sparked off initial ideas as to the form the piece might take. The words ‘Total Policing’ used as a strap line by the Northumbria Force suggested the idea of a circular piece encompassing all.

This circular structure has an outer skin of satin polished stainless steel and an inner ring containing a polished stainless steel sphere.

The inner ring has a series of words cut into the steel through which light shines and enabling the words to be reflected in the highly polished stainless steel sphere. These words are selected from the Northumbria Police 2020 Vision document and the Policing Pledge, including the following: Attentive, Responsive, Reliable, Skilled, Polite, Fair etc. The sphere is not only able to reflect these words out into the world at night but during the day will reflect whatever passes in front of it, people, cars etc giving an ever changing nature to the work, reflecting the world around it.

Funded by: Northumbria Police

Public Art Officer: Anna Pepperall, Gateshead Council

Project cost: £50,000

Main Contractor: Miller Construction

Subcontractors: James Ritchie Architects

Architectural Metalworkers Ltd. Newcastle

Peterlee Glass Ltd.

Installed by: Architectural Metalworkers Ltd. Newcastle

Completion date: 2010