

PUBLIC PROJECTS

Catherine Skelcher has successfully delivered a number of projects within the public and voluntary sectors. Our ability to consult effectively with multi-stakeholder clients is key to forging a shared vision, which is fundamental to the success of each project. In every case a thorough understanding of the site and social context is our starting point and the inspiration for our architecture.

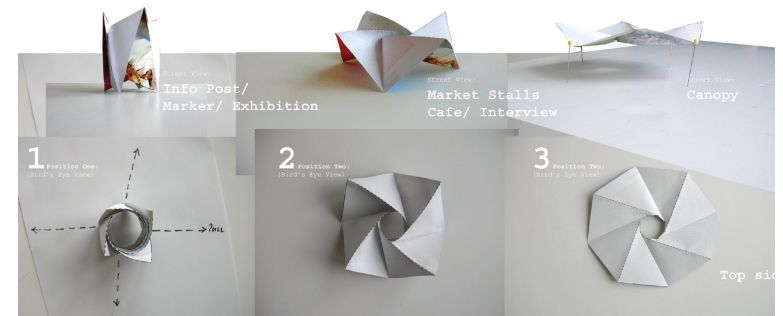


Based in Wakefield, Beam is a company dedicated to the imaginative understanding and improvement of the public realm. In 2008 it launched an open competition to create 'Beam Mobile,' a roving arts venue that would facilitate public engagement and debate and provide a mini setting for cultural and arts events in the region.

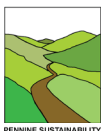
Cottrell and Vermeulen Architecture was short listed to develop a detailed competition submission. A team was assembled including Buro Happold, Engineers HRW and an expert in deployable structures from the University of Cambridge, with Catherine Skelcher as the Lead Consultant.

Our starting point was the folded paper game, 'fortune teller.' To deliver the practical requirements of the structure without compromising flexibility and delight we explored methods and materials appropriate for lightweight structures which can be folded out and folded away, i.e., fabric and deployable structural technology, and we finally adopted a simple wrap pattern.

Our proposal was for a lightweight membrane structure capable of folding and unfolding, making deployment easier and allowing for more than one arrangement.



Photomontage of Beam Mobile and its imagined journey through Wakefield (above); Paper Concept Model illustrating the different phases of deployment and suggested use (right).



Key Details

Architect: Project Architect Catherine Skelcher (for Cottrell and Vermeulen Architecture)
Design Completed: 2008