

## Where words go once spoken...

On December 26, 2004 Earth shuddered... tides raced with lightning speed toward unsuspecting shores. In an instant millions of lives across this planet changed forever and nearly 230,000 died. In that single moment an entire planet awakened to the reality that life is the ocean we all share.



I see a gigantic silver helix resting in the sand at water's edge. Six metres high and nearly 14 metres long, the brilliant coiling structure, neither marine skeleton nor ship superstructure, is instead reminiscent of both. Its curving under-belly is buried in sand, revealed then concealed by the ebb and flow of tide-water. Suspended inches above the sand and running the full 14 metre length of the structure's inner coils is a long narrow needle form tapering to a gentle point at each end. The elegant form is oriented so that viewers who enter the silver helix may sit on it and contemplate the view south southwest to the sea.

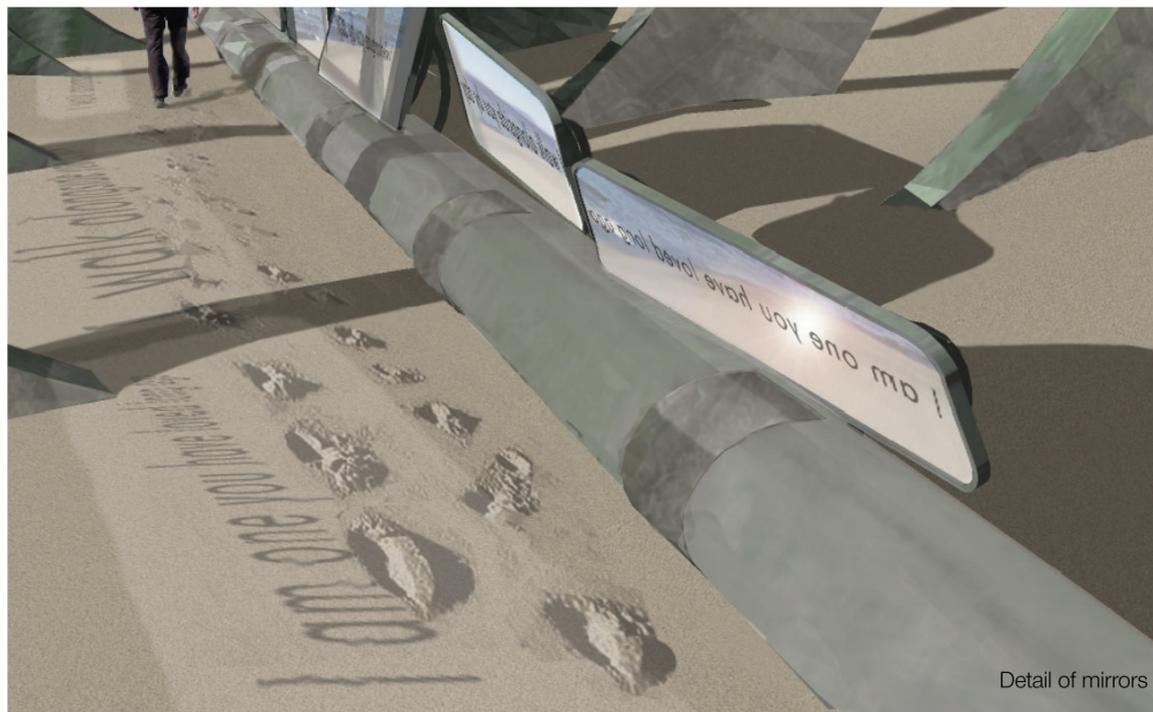


Visitors to the site will be able to enter the hallowed space from any direction. The structural curves define varying views of land and water but none more dramatic than the one south south-west out to the distant sea. While seated on or standing behind the 54' long needle-form, visitors may easily move the large mirrors to catch the light and cast word-shadows onto the sand. This play of light on steel and sand suggests to the viewer that their words and thoughts, like those of Norwegian poet Rolf Jacobsen, can be sent gliding out over the water to the sky.

Movable stainless steel mirrors mounted in sequence along the needle's dorsal length flash like fish darting across the ocean surface sending land's light/life out across the ocean. On the surface of each mirror lines from Norwegian poets which remind us of our universal connection to the seas have been sandblasted in reverse. In the brilliant sun the mirrors cast ephemeral word-shadows of the poetic fragments, now reversed and legible, onto the sand. Those who have come to sit by the sea may play with the mirrors as children do sending the reflected light words from sand to sea and sky. And perhaps they will wonder, as we all do about all of life's mysteries, where words go once spoken...



View Northwest along needle



Detail of mirrors

From *North in the World* by Rolf Jacobsen:

**Guardian Angel**

... I am one you have loved long ago. I walk alongside you by day and look intently at you and put my mouth on your heart but you don't know it ...

Another mirror might have these words from his poem **Sand:**

...There is a precise total for all the grains of sand on earth's beaches, as well as for the starry worlds above our heads ... if only we knew it,

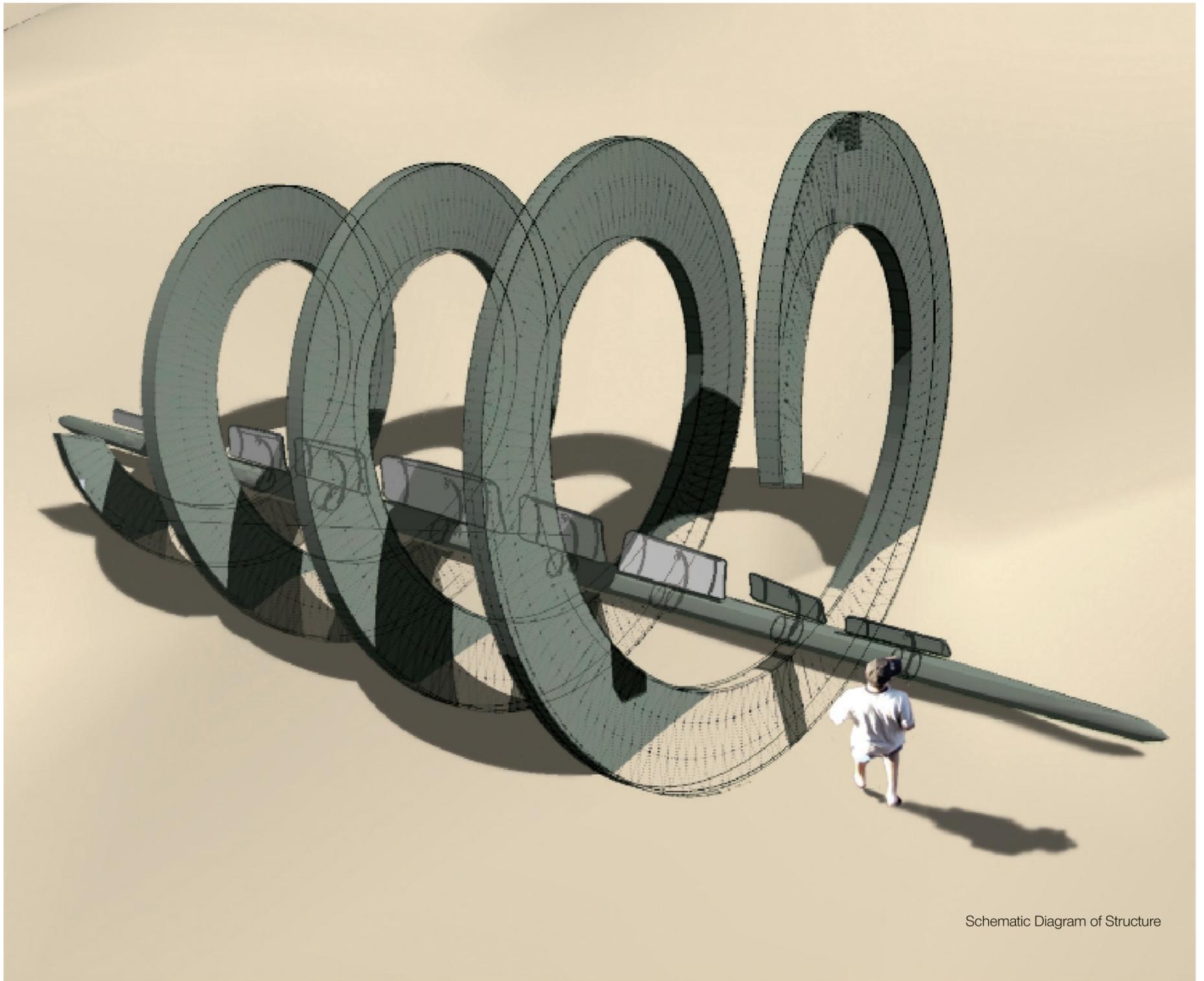
... it's more important to know that the grains of sand grow constantly in number and the deserts are getting bigger.

A touch of violet has mixed itself into the pink of sunset.

Words once spoken fly on the wind, perhaps moving upward and away, yet remain forever in our minds as memories. This sculpture is intended to create a sacred space where people may come to reflect, remember and take solace from the sea and sky. Jacobsen's words are touching in the way they suggest the eternal presence of another who is always there at the edge of our lives. This sculpture may be seen in some ways to suggest a similar presence and, sitting as it does at the sea's edge, allow one to share its eternal rhythm.

Below: Isolated view of central needle and mirrors





Schematic Diagram of Structure

The structure will appear as if it has just been washed ashore or is perhaps about to be rolled by the ocean's next breath back into the water from which all life comes.

The entire structure will be built from 310 stainless steel alloy suitable for saltwater environment. Surface treatment will be burnished and polished to maximise light reflection and refraction under all light conditions.

#### Budgetary Considerations

Fabrication and Finishing	NOK 1 420 000
Transportation of Materials	NOK 113 000
Installation (Crane, Welding, etc.)	NOK 56 500
Literary Rights	NOK 56 500
Site Design/Engineering	NOK 56 500
Piles (5 x NOK 84 500)	NOK 422 500
Transportation, living, hotel, etc.	NOK 50 000
Site Preparation, Foundation, etc.	NOK 162 500
Artist and Design Fees	NOK 162 500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>NOK 2 500 000</b>