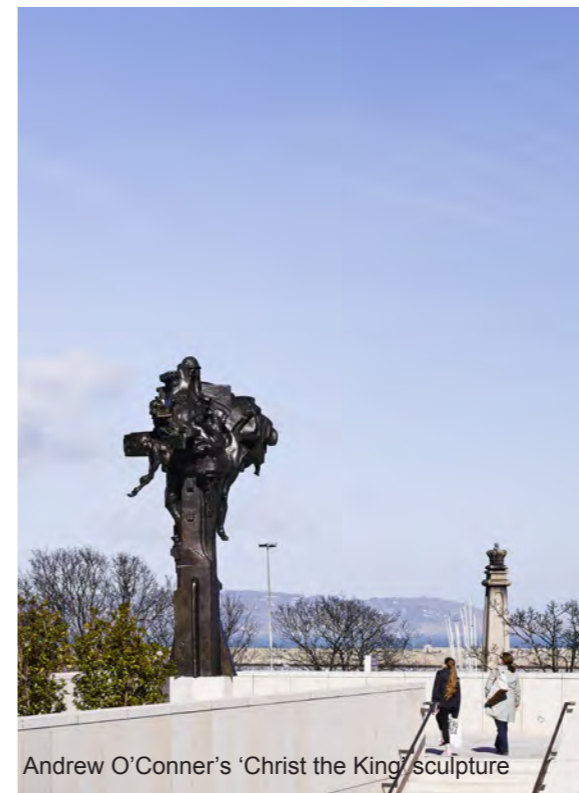
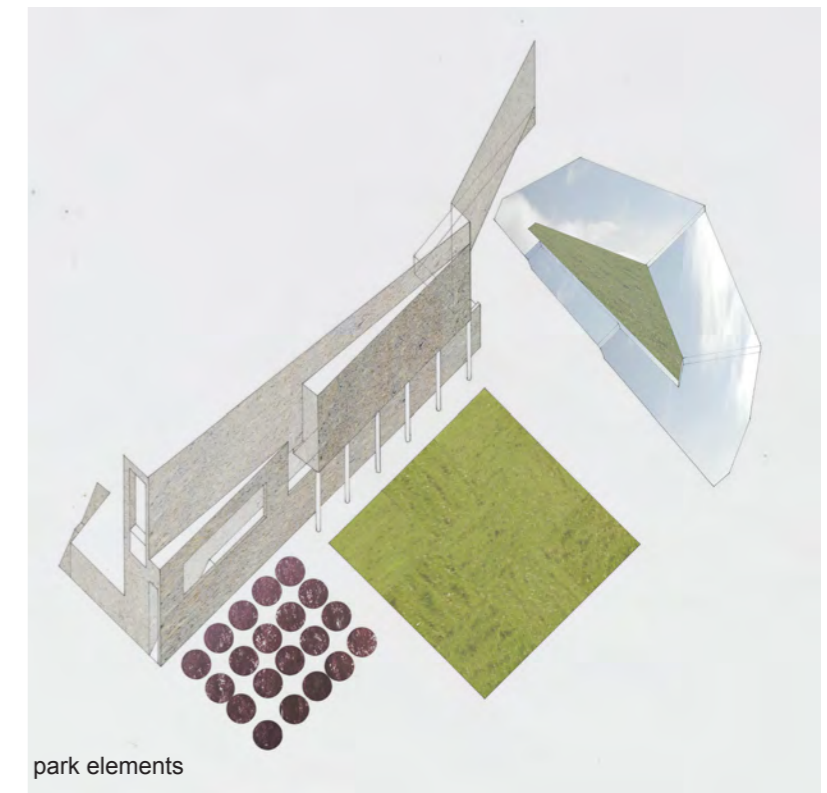




Metals' promenade and entrance to cultural centre



Andrew O'Conner's 'Christ the King' sculpture



park elements

dlr lexicon Moran Park

The brief for dlrLexicon was two-fold: firstly to reconnect the domains of town and harbour by means of a new public place anchored by a civic landmark, and secondly to provide a multi-media library and cultural hub for the whole community. In a world where public space is increasingly privatised and commercialised, the library is the last bastion of truly public space. It provides a place for public assembly and social exchange, or a quiet place to read alone. Moran Park occupies a strategic location in Dun Laoghaire, a historic seaside resort; it visibly demonstrates the natural fault line between the harbour and the town. The old park was dysfunctional, the abrupt changes in level and restrictions to movement around an old reservoir reinforced the disconnection between the domains of town and harbour. The project was therefore an opportunity to knit back the structure of the town with the seafront, making new routes and visual connections, a new public space. The building is wedged into the granite escarpment and directly relates to the two ground levels of the park. The upper level reconnects to the grounds of the Royal Marine Hotel and includes a pond on the site of the reservoir, reconfigured as a series of terraced pools around a sunken bamboo garden and a raised belvedere extending towards the sea. A small piazza is addressed by the Mariner's Church; a tree-lined street links the town to the sea. The lower park level relates directly to a pedestrian promenade. A new public space on the footprint of the original bowling-green is envisaged as a garden room, sheltered by a grove of trees. The cultural centre may be accessed here; the theatre café can spill out to the outdoor space. The grove of trees anchors Moran Park House in a domestic landscape; parterre planting recalls the original kitchen garden.



Haigh terrace Links town to sea



window to the sea