

Greyhope Bay: connecting to our marine world.

DEVECI, G.

2021

Greyhope Bay

This design is being developed for a community-led project, which aims to create a marine experience centre at Torry Battery, Aberdeen, overlooking Greyhope Bay. This is a site that has a unique heritage and spectacular panoramic views of Aberdeen city, harbour and coast. The Greyhope Bay community was founded in 2016, but has been an idea since 2013. The first phase of the project involves the development of a low-impact, glass-fronted centre, café and outdoor decking that will enhance access to the historical monument.

The intention is for the project's building and facility operations to act as a flagship in sustainable practice, modelling innovation in technology, the circular economy and low-impact behaviours, particularly striving to share understanding and to emulate changes that can be made to protect marine environments. More information is available on the project website: <https://www.greyhopebay.com/>. The design will support the project's ambition in terms of place making and the impact of creating a building with meaning. Influence for the design has been led by the concepts of resilience, community-ownership, and adaptability under changing economic, social and cultural circumstances.

Material in this portfolio is taken from various sources. This project is currently ongoing, so new material may be added over time:

1. Site map from original planning application (page 4):
 - DEVECI, G. 2018. *Site plan / trial pits location: Greyhope Bay planning application*. [Site plan]. Hosted on the Greyhope Bay project website [online]. Available from: <https://www.greyhopebay.com/journal/success-by-collective-effort-and-community>
2. Site map taken from project website in May 2021, but no longer online (page 5):
 - GREYHOPE BAY PROJECT. [2021]. *Site map*. [Annotated photograph]
3. Site map taken from project website in October 2021 (page 6):
 - GREYHOPE BAY PROJECT. 2021. Site map of Greyhope Bay Experience at Torry Battery. [Annotated photograph]. Hosted on the Greyhope Bay project website [online]. Available from: <https://bit.ly/3Ehikfj>
4. Artist's impression of decking and café exterior (page 7):
 - GREYHOPE BAY PROJECT. [2020]. *View 2: exterior*. [Concept drawing]. Hosted on the Greyhope Bay project website [online]. Available from: <https://www.greyhopebay.com/build-it>

5. Artist's impression of café interior (page 8):

- P-O-L-K-A. [2021]. *Proposed design for the Greyhope Bay café and dolphin lookout centre up at the Torry Battery in Aberdeen, Scotland*. [Concept drawing]. Hosted on the P-O-L-K-A website [online]. Available from: <https://p-o-l-k-a.com/GREYHOPE-BAY>

6. Artist's 3D model of café interior (page 9):

- GREYHOPE BAY PROJECT. 2021. *Greyhope Bay interior tour by P-O-L-K-A Design*. [Video]. Hosted on YouTube [online]. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxxIU3DiRhI>

7. Interview with Gokay Deveci (page 9):

- GREYHOPE BAY PROJECT. 2020. *Episode 1: place-making*. [Video]. Hosted on YouTube [online]. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYzbYPy2Abs>

8. Architect's overview of the project (pages 10-12):

- FROST, J. and DEVECI, G. 2022. *Dolphins at the Battery: connecting to our marine world*. [Blog post]. Posted on RGView [online], 11 February 2022. Available from: <https://www.rgu.ac.uk/rgview/extending-reach/4810-dolphins-at-the-battery-connecting-to-our-marine-world>

Video files are embedded into this PDF where possible. However, this functionality may not work on all devices, so a separate copy of the videos is also provided on OpenAIR. See list of files available from: <https://rgu-repository.worktribe.com/output/1290166>



AMENDMENTS		PROJECT	TITLE		Gokay Deveci RIBA, FRIAS Chartered Architect	
DATE	REVISION	Greyhope Bay Planning Application	Site Plan/ Trial Pits Location	DWG NO.	REVISION	tel: (01224) 263714
A		SITE	Torry Battery	PL2B		fax: (01224) 263777
B		CLIENT	Greyhope Bay Limited	DATE	SCALE	e-mail: g.deveci@rgu.ac.uk
C				June 2018	1:1000@A3	
D						
E						



Cycle Rack



Toilets



GHB Cafe and Viewing Centre



Decking/Walkway



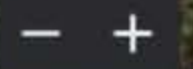
East Access Pathway



Disabled Parking



Torry Battery





Greyhope Bay Centre

Decking/Walkway

East Access Pathway

Toilets

Disabled Parking





ESPRESSO
LONG BLACK
FLAT WHITE
LATTE
CAPPUCCINO
ESPRESSO
LONG BLACK
FLAT WHITE
LATT
CAPPICINO



Dolphins at the Battery: Connecting to Our Marine World

By Jenny Frost and Gokay Deveci, 11 February 2022



Figure 1. Architect Gokay Deveci stands in the foreground with the visitor centre visible in the background. Image by Martin Parker, The Gatehouse.

Ahead of the opening of the new Greyhope Bay "Dolphins at the Battery" Visitor Centre this spring, Professor Gokay Deveci (from The Scott Sutherland School of Architecture & Built Environment) reflects on the centre's historical significance and its impact on the local community.

Back in 2017, myself and a team of students became involved with a charitable organisation, Greyhope Bay, with the aim of creating a world-class marine experience centre and visitor attraction that would connect Aberdeen and the North-East to our marine world. Working closely with Greyhope's Managing Director, Fiona McIntyre, we set out to preserve the history and heritage of the old artillery battery, which has overlooked the harbour since 1860 and which has been used to defend the city from threats during both World Wars.

We wanted to create an "off-grid", eco-friendly facility that would become a vibrant destination in Aberdeen and a hub for the local community. With this in mind, an idea was born to repurpose shipping containers, finished with timber cladding. Our ambition was to create a tourist, hospitality and community centre that would contribute to the circular economy. By upcycling material, we could reduce the overall carbon footprint of the project whilst making it more affordable. "Dolphins at the Battery" would create a community space with a dolphin-viewing centre, café, education and community hub, offering a ready-made canvas and unique window to the sea.

Steeped in history with their role as former WWII defences, Torry Battery is considered one of the best areas in Scotland to see blue-nose dolphins and minke whales. When the centre opens this spring, people will be able to see these amazing cetaceans from Aberdeen in comfort for the first time. Beyond this, I see "Dolphins at the Battery" serving as a new community centre, which will allow people to connect with the natural environment whilst fostering better relations with one another.

The new centre is about much more than a standalone building. It has been designed innovatively and thoughtfully to strengthen the community around it. Throughout, a significant element of the work for the staff and students at the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment (SSS) has been to work closely with the Greyhope Bay Community Group to understand their needs. Communities like Torry (and the wider city of Aberdeen) feature a diverse mix of people with different ways of life, but most communities generally revolve around family, social ties and networks. It is an architect's role to foster these communities and to deliver a positive impact for them.

With this in mind, we have created a multi-layered visitor experience that offers multiple ways to connect with the community. We have created an educational space to enable visitors to learn more about the marine life on their doorstep. We're hoping the centre will provide opportunities for wildlife and heritage tours, artist led creative workshops, community events, outdoor learning and more. Above all, the project reflects our ambition to nurture and sustain local communities, and to bring residents closer together.

The centre also echoes Aberdeen and the North-East's ambition to transition beyond oil and gas. It has sustainability at its core and operates entirely off-grid. Solar and battery power are harvested, and rainwater treatment technology filters the water supply. This supports our aim to run a low-impact, sustainable centre, and we are grateful to everyone involved for their contributions, which have supported our vision and made the build possible.



Figure 2. Gokay Deveci stands next to the visitor centre, with the lighthouse and sea visible in the background.

The Greyhope Bay dolphin visitor centre is breathing new life into a historical monument. The project embraces the future and current needs of residents whilst respecting the historical significance of the area. It has given a new lease of life to an endangered site and offers a new future for Torry Battery, which will draw people to the area and make it suitable for modern-day use. This creates a long-lasting legacy and is an approach that can be replicated at other historical sites across Scotland.

This marks a culmination of a journey - from the original idea, to the construction and finally to the opening of this amazing centre. The project reflects the role architecture has in nurturing and sustaining our local communities, and the potential to bring communities closer together. I am very grateful to the design and construction team, who have helped deliver such a challenging and innovative project.

The Dolphin's Visitor Centre offers a bright future for the Torry Battery and reaffirms the area's environmental and historical significance. I am delighted that this community project has come to fruition. I see this as the starting point towards a much bigger ambition. Ultimately, my hopes are that we build upon this success to create a world-class research and marine centre, which would welcome people to the North East. I'm looking forward to seeing Greyhope Bay thrive in the years to come.