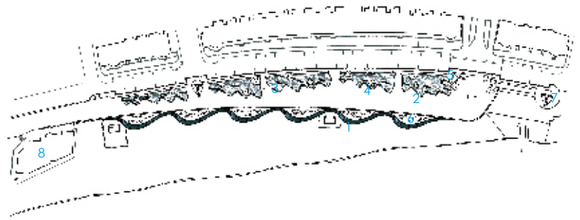
Dover Esplanade

Location: Kent, Great Britain **Designer:** Tonkin Liu **Photographer:** Robert Polley and Mike Tonkin **Completion date:** 2010 **Site area:** 6,000 sqm



1. Lifting Wave
2. Resting Wave
3. Lighting Wave
4. Oak Weathered Benches
5. Sculpted Grass Mounds
6. Shingle Garden with Indigenous Plants
7. Existing Pavilion Retained
8. Sea Sports Centre

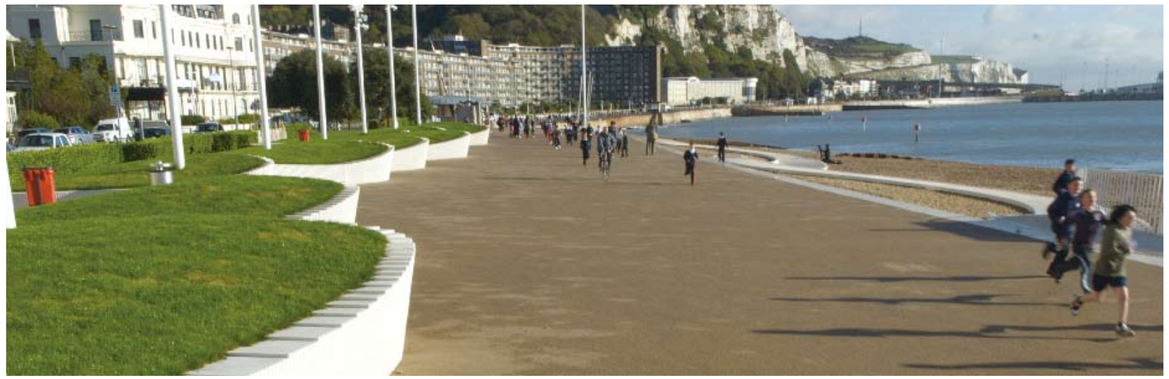
The Dover Esplanade harnesses the architectural language of Dover's identity; the gentle nature of waves on the sheltered beach, the rhythmical sweep of the Georgian Seafront Terrace and the undulating topography of the White Cliffs of Dover. The creation of three new waves brings a new interactive dynamism to esplanade.

The Lifting Wave is a repeated formation of sculptural ramps and staircases made of pre-cast white concrete that rise and fall to connect the Esplanade to the lower shingle beach. The Lifting Wave combines ramps formed of miniature steps that create a light-catching textured surface. The gentle ramps both allow access for all and the sinuous line brings dynamic forms to the beach.

The Resting Wave is a sculptural retaining wall that runs the length of the Esplanade, providing bay spaces with seating sheltered from the south-westerly wind and orientated towards the sun. The Resting Wave's form tilts back and forth in a system of convex and concave forms. Undulating raised lawns follow the curving line of the wall providing a setting for picnics.

The Lighting Wave is a sculptural line of white columns with artwork that complements the sweeping form of the sea wall and terrace, bringing improved amenity lighting and programmed lighting sequences to the Esplanade. Along the length of the Esplanade the columns rise and fall like the froth on the bubbling crest of a wave. The interactive low-energy LED lights have been specifically programmed to create a dynamic wave movement, bringing a sense of delight to the seafront.

Award description:
2011 Royal Institute of British Architects Award



Right: Resting Wave and Lighting Wave