



INSPIRATIONAL

ARTSCAPE

BESPOKE CREATIVITY





Artscape

Bespoke landscape artwork, beautifully crafted by Hardscape

Artscape is a unique service that allows our clients the creative freedom to think big. Our techniques honour the craft of traditional workmanship but deliver the precision that modern technology affords. With an unrivalled resource of state-of-the-art machinery, Hardscape's in-house team of design technicians and specialist stonemasons creates beautiful, bespoke art features in both natural and man-made materials.

Combining refined fabrication processes and the team's technical expertise, Artscape empowers designers, architects and clients to imagine their projects on a whole new scale. Regardless of design detail or material specification, we have the facilities and skills to bring even the most complex vision to life.

Whether it be the replication of aged stone for a conservation project or the modern interpretation of a traditional landscaping scheme, Artscape extends the creative possibilities - whatever the requirements.

Working closely with clients for over 20 years, Hardscape has responded to a broad range of briefs. This wealth of experience enables us to tackle any technical or aesthetic challenge. Starting with just a simple sketch or a finished CAD drawing, we develop elegantly crafted, individual solutions for our clients.

In this brochure, we describe the various Artscape production methods and demonstrate their use in a selection of our project case studies.

Featured: The Coins of Saint Patrick's Way (Pilgrim Walk), Northern Ireland
Client: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Landscape Architect: Doran Consulting, Belfast
Contractor: John McQuillan Ltd
Technique: Etched/sandblasted, flamed Crystal Black Granite

one

5 AXIS CNC MACHINING

Hardscape's manufacturing facility harnesses the latest in material cutting technology and boasts a 5 axis, fully automated, computer numerically controlled (CNC) machine.

Featuring an inbuilt automatic blade and carving tool changer, this machine allows the technical team to customise hard landscaping materials from complex CAD drawings for both standard and bespoke applications. Through computer-controlled technology, the CNC machine produces precision results, cut to exact specifications, in the shortest time possible.

Outperforming even the most accomplished of stonemasons, this mechanisation ensures that intricate shapes and details are rendered with pinpoint accuracy and ease. However, should a more artisan look and feel be required, our in-house stonemasons can provide a hand finishing service.

The CNC operation process is dynamic and flexible, permitting real-time adjustments to final designs prior to production. And, as it is entirely computerised, the finished product can be replicated with precision, time and time again.

Hardscape's CNC machine is operated by highly trained, skilled technicians. It is rigorously maintained and serviced to guarantee that every project is completed to the highest standards and to CE Mark certification.





two

WATERJET CUTTING

Our advanced waterjet fabrication process equips Hardscape with the ability to create sophisticated, two-dimensional designs that would not be possible with traditional machining or masonry tooling methods.

High-pressure water jets are combined with an abrasive and programmed through intelligent CNC technology, to deliver millimetre-specific inlays across a variety of masonry finishes. In addition, the technique can be applied to an assortment of less conventional materials, such as metal and glass, to produce bonded, modular paving systems and bespoke features.

Waterjet cutting is an ideal solution for a range of projects, anything from large-scale commercial works to sculptural or public art commissions, but it is particularly suited to schemes that incorporate two or more materials or colours - or when absolute precision is essential.

Accuracy is guaranteed using our in-house CAD software to manipulate the waterjet fabrication technology. Alternatively, Hardscape can produce demonstration samples from a client's own CAD files, hand-drawn sketches or photographs, thus providing additional peace of mind before production commences.





Featured: Elk Mill, Oldham
Client: British Land
Landscape Architect: Vector Design Concepts, Wakefield
Contractor: Lindum Group
Technique: Waterjet-cut Kellen Breccia Tagenta paving, epoxy-bonded top surface with metal footprints (supplied) and drilled with steel fixings

three ETCHING

As part of the Artscape offering, Hardscape has developed an intelligent process for the customised etching and engraving of text, logos and graphics onto all classes of hard landscaping materials.

When coupled with specialist advice on material selection from the Hardscape team, this technique allows designers to evolve the appearance of two different colours within the one product. Further colours can also be produced during the process through a practice of intricate layering.

Our innovative method integrates highly pressurised air with an abrasive, to slowly grind down surfaces. This results in a superior, uniquely etched composition with a lightly frosted finish. Hardscape has also devised in-house, CNC blasting systems to sandblast letters as small as 2mm on textured natural stone, masonry, metal and glass.



four SCULPTING & MASONRY

By re-envisioning the ancient craft of sculpting and masonry for the modern day, Hardscape creates entirely bespoke artwork pieces that are precise, flexible and cost-effective.

Our hand-in-hand design service for sculpting and masonry helps clients to select the materials and production methods that will best bring their ideas to life. Hardscape then exploits the latest in technology, machinery and 3D modelling techniques to deliver expertly crafted works that are commercially viable.

The flexibility of the practices employed means that pieces can be manufactured at the quarry, in-house or on-site. Similarly, in addition to a range of machine-cut lettering, Hardscape also offers traditional, hand-cut lettering and symbols that allow for in situ adjustments. In this way, complete alterations can be undertaken in public spaces without the need for cumbersome and noisy machinery.

These sculpting and masonry processes are not just applicable to new constructions. Throughout the years, Hardscape has been engaged on numerous conservation projects aimed at preserving the integrity and beauty of historical monuments. Liaising with designers, architects, local authorities and conservationists, our professional team sensitively restores pieces using the highest standards of workmanship.





1914 1918 L & N.W. R.LY. BIRMINGHAM GOODS
ERECTED TO THE HO NOUR AND IN MEMORY OF
WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE
"THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE"

Featured: Goose Green, Altrincham
Client: Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Landscape Architect: Planit-IE, Altrincham
Contractor: J Cooney Ltd
Technique: Sculpted 'geese' benches in Kobra Granite, flamed and bush-hammered Magma Granite paving with Yellow Rock and Barleycorn Granite blend

SADLER'S YARD

NOMA, MANCHESTER

Adopting modern, contemporary materials to draw on historic themes, Hardscape collaborated with landscape architects, Planit-IE to transform a public space in the city of Manchester.

Sadler's Yard forms an important part of the Manchester NOMA redevelopment. NOMA is the North West's largest mixed-use regeneration scheme and saw the reinvigoration of a 20 acre neighbourhood in the heart of the city.

The main square - named after James Sadler, a balloonist, chemist and pastry chef who made the first manned balloon flight from Manchester in 1785 - was designed to accommodate outdoor events, providing an inspirational setting for Manchester's creative communities. This leisure space acts as a focal point for pedestrians and patrons frequenting the many shops, cafés and restaurants that surround it.

Kevin Redhead, principal landscape architect at Planit-IE, said, 'We approached Hardscape because we know they can put together creative solutions, on brief and on time. They combine a dedication to craft with modern thinking that's clear in every aspect of their delivery. We knew they were the right choice for this ambitious, creative project.'

Linking past and present, Hardscape proposed the most appropriate materials to reflect the area's financial heritage. Complex diamond patterns and inlaid natural stone paving, showcasing Artscape processes, recall the marble floors that were a signature feature of the district's traditional banking halls. Historic architectural motifs were also isolated and incorporated into the design.

The paving elements, including Whitworth Blue Sandstone, Westmorland Green Burlington Stone and mixed granites, were selected for their longevity and natural beauty. These sit alongside, and complement, granite and cast iron street furniture that has been enhanced with multiple Artscape details.



Techniques & Materials Used
Artscape lettering and carving on Crystal Black Granite benches, diamond-shaped flamed and bush-hammered Magma Granite modules, Whitworth Blue Sandstone and Westmorland Green Burlington Stone paving.

REGENT STREET, DOUGLAS

ISLE OF MAN

A-Y OF MANX

Employing precision techniques and careful material selection, Hardscape assisted in the design and production of innovative paving artwork for Regent Street, in the centre of Douglas.

The Isle of Man Town and Village Regeneration Scheme was implemented to infuse a new energy into the island's commercial districts. The programme was extremely successful and Douglas was honoured with first place in the landscaping category at the 2014 Natural Stone Awards.

Hardscape worked with landscape architects, BCA Landscape, to develop an engaging paving solution for the bustling thoroughfare of Regent Street. The concept was inspired by the legacy of Archibald Knox, a Manx designer whose pioneering career straddled the Arts and Crafts Movement, Celtic Revival, Art Nouveau and Modernist disciplines. In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of his birth, BCA Landscape devised paving artwork to illustrate the 24 letters of the Manx alphabet. This 'A-Y of Manx' builds on narrative themes from fact and folklore to create an intriguing representation of the Isle of Man today.

Installed by the Department of Infrastructure, the new paving enlivens the island's capital. To realise the landscape architect's vision, Hardscape used the latest waterjet cutting techniques to produce the illusion of three-dimensional cubes. Shadow and tone were added through intricate layers and etched in a delicate sandblasting process. The creation of the individual pictures and letters, some of which are just 2mm wide, demanded extreme technical precision.

Hardscape also recommended a selection of materials to enhance the busy streetscape. A combination of granite blends - in Kobra, Kobra Green, Classic, Crystal Black, Midnight Black and Royal White - takes full advantage of sunlight, while bespoke Kobra Granite seating areas offer the perfect vantage point to take it all in.





Photograph courtesy of Janice Farnan Photography

Techniques & Materials Used
Artscape waterjet cutting and etching techniques on Kobra, Crystal Black, Midnight Black, Royal White and Classic Granite, surrounding paving in Kobra Green, Royal White and flamed Violet Pearl Granite, bespoke Kobra Granite seating.

MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE

OXFORD

The Andrew Wiles Building, home to the University of Oxford's Mathematical Institute, was formally opened in October 2013. Hardscape joined the project team of Rafael Viñoly Architects and Townshend Landscape Architects to produce the Penrose Paving that now characterises this academic hub.

Steeped in a proud scholarly history, the building is named after the professor Sir Andrew Wiles, one of Oxford's most celebrated mathematicians. In further homage to its mathematical greats, the paving design surrounding the institute was inspired by Sir Roger Penrose, Professor of Mathematics. Penrose is attributed with the identification of non-periodic tiling that exhibits both reflection and fivefold rotational shapes. The beautiful, geometric patterns of the paving solution echo this form.

Constructed from just two types of contrasting diamond-shaped tiles, the paving pattern creates an alluring three-dimensional impression. These Royal White and Kobra Granite tiles were carefully selected for their particular texture and colouring. Artscape etching techniques were applied to add greater shadow and depth and to augment the dimensional illusion.

Polished 30mm stainless steel arcs adorn the tiles and produce a high-shine, mirrored finish. Both steel and stone were precision cut using powerful water jets and then bonded with a durable cement and resin.

Locally sourced European Amarelo Reale and Roriz Granite setts, kerbs and edging, along with West Pennine Sandstone paving, cladding and copings, contribute to a low energy BREEAM rating for the work. Hardscape was also mindful that the chosen materials should be sympathetic to the local history and integrate well with additional project phases in the Oxford area.



Techniques & Materials Used
Artscape waterjet cutting and etching on Royal White and Kobra Granite, waterjet-cut and polished stainless steel, European Amarelo Reale and Roriz Granite setts, kerbs and edging, West Pennine Sandstone paving, cladding and copings, Neland Siena and Nero WF clay pavers.

SPANISH CITY

WHITLEY BAY

The rejuvenation of the Spanish City promenade represents a key component of North Tyneside Council's Coastal Regeneration Strategy. Hardscape worked closely with landscape architects, Capita, to develop an appropriate solution for this historic location.

Situated in the seaside town of Whitley Bay, the Spanish City is now a heritage site. Opened in 1910, the landmark domed building was home to a concert hall, restaurant, roof garden and tearooms. Featuring a permanent funfair, the Spanish City was originally conceived as a smaller version of Blackpool's Pleasure Beach.

Hardscape applied modern landscaping techniques and several Artscape methods to bring the seafront promenade back to life. Flamed Magma Granite paving offsets a series of solid Crystal Black Granite units, skillfully crafted by Hardscape. These base units support curved wooden benches and create a unique public seating area. The wavelike slopes of the benches evoke the movement of the former fairground rides.

A selection of these distinctive amusement names, such as Figure 8, Mystic Maze and The Social Whirl, appear in custom font on the base of each bench. Hardscape etched the lettering into the granite units using a sandblasting technique that mixes pressurised air with an abrasive, to delicately remove layers from the stone. The letters were then highlighted in a vibrant white paint.

The paving bands of the new amphitheatre display lines from the 1981 Dire Straits hit, 'The Tunnel of Love'; a song which immortalised the Spanish City. Hardscape fashioned these poignant lyrics with a waterjet inlay of Royal White Granite onto Crystal Black.

Strategically positioned spotlighting accentuates the craft of the Artscape processes involved and ensures that the site's playful messaging remains visible after dark.





The Dive Bomber

Crow's Gullions

*Aaaaah... Whitley Bay... The Dome! the white Dome!
It was the Taj Mahal to us.*

Techniques & Materials Used

Artscape etched and painted lettering on Crystal Black Granite benches, waterjet lettering inlays in Royal White Granite on Crystal Black, flamed Magma Granite paving with Royal White Granite copings and corduroy tactiles.

FACILITIES

Hardscape's production and processing takes place at our state-of-the-art unit in Long Marston, Warwickshire, United Kingdom. This 150,000 ft² facility is continuously upgraded to further enhance the range of Artscape services and techniques on offer to our clients.

To arrange a visit to the Hardscape production facility, please contact us on 0845 260 1748.

For more information on any of our products and services, visit www.hardscape.co.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hardscape wishes to acknowledge the following organisations and individuals for their involvement in the projects outlined:

SADLER'S YARD, NOMA, MANCHESTER

Client: Hermes Real Estate, Manchester City Council and The Co-operative Group
Landscape Architect: Planit-IE, Altrincham
Contractor: Casey Group
Specialist Metalwork: Chris Brammall Ltd
Signage Graphics: IS Group

REGENT STREET, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN

Client: Isle of Man Government
Landscape Architect: BCA Landscape, Liverpool & London
Designer: Smiling Wolf
Contractor: Isle of Man Department of Infrastructure

MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE, OXFORD

Client: University of Oxford
Landscape Architect: Rafael Viñoly Architects, London - building design and Penrose Paving
Townshend Landscape Architects, London - additional paved areas
Designer: Original design by Sir Roger Penrose
Contractor: Vetter UK, subsidiary of Laing O'Rourke - paving installation

SPANISH CITY, WHITLEY BAY

Client: North Tyneside Council
Landscape Architect: Capita Property and Infrastructure Ltd
Contractor: Capita Property and Infrastructure Ltd





HARDSCAPE
Inspire : Select : Supply

