



GAYIP GUARDS THE MIGRANT TRAIL

BEST SCULPTURE/PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Sandridge Bridge, built in 1888 over the Yarra River, is a fine early example of a steel-plated girder bridge. Until its closure in 1987, the bridge played an important role supporting the direct rail link between Station Pier and the city. Many migrants who arrived in Melbourne travelled into the city by train from Station Pier.

The Sandridge Bridge precinct redevelopment at Southbank was commissioned by the State Government and the City of Melbourne at a cost of A\$15.5 million. The State Government contributed an additional A\$3 million for 'The Travellers', a series of ten permanent sculptures designed by Nadim Karam.

Nine of the sculptures are located on the bridge and each represents a chapter in Victoria's migration history: First Settler, the convict period; Melbourne Beauty, the gold rushes; Walker & His Tucker Bag, assisted migration; Shelter, displaced persons; Urban Wheel, European migration; Running Couple, refugees; Butterfly Girl, Asian & Middle East migration; Technoman, students & professionals; and Walking Sun, Australian

multiculturalism. The pieces move slowly on a mechanised track; their outward journey takes 15 minutes.

The tenth sculpture, Gayip, is the only one to feature stone in its construction – it has a massive bluestone base. It represents the indigenous population and was designed by Karim with assistance from indigenous artist Mandy Nicholson. It remains stationary in Queensbridge Square on Southbank.

This major redevelopment provides Melburnians and its visitors with a fascinating record of the arrival of migrants. Karim described Gayip as follows: "Since remote times Gayip has been standing on a rock. Recently, Gayip has been observing travellers passing by. At night Gayip rises into the skies and spirals over the territory to ensure the well-being of all. Gayip has seen darkened times, thick with mistrust, and others clear and warm. Gayip is a guide to the things that have always been there."

Specifications

Project:

The Travellers

Architect:

Paul Nicholas, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Designers:

City of Melbourne

Engineers:

Arup

Main Contractor:

McElligott

Stone:

Bluestone

Supplier:

Bam Stone

Location:

Sandridge Bridge, Southbank, Vic