

## THE KYPE STEPS TO NOWHERE

Hastings Castle was originally built straight after the invasion in 1066 as a motte and bailey castle near the sea. In 1070 William issued orders for the Castle to be rebuilt in stone, along with the St Mary's Chapel on top of the cliff that now overlooks Hastings Old Town. It was the first permanent Norman castle to be built in the country. The southern half of the castle, including the keep, has fallen into the sea, but the foundations of the 11th century church and some of the 12th & 13th century stonework remains.

A **keep** (from the Middle English kype) is a type of tower built within castles during the Middle Ages by European nobility. The first keeps were made of timber and formed a key part of the motte and bailey castles that emerged in Normandy and Anjou during the 10th century; the design spread to England as a result of the Norman invasion of 1066. The Anglo-Normans and French rulers began to build stone keeps during the 10th and 11th centuries; these included Norman keeps, with a square or rectangular design.

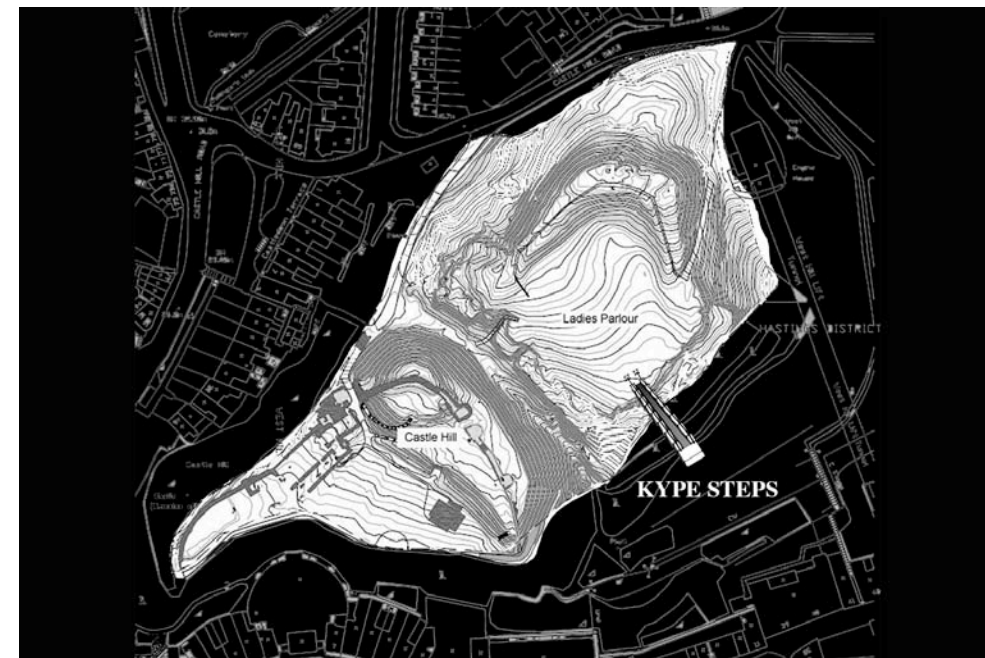
Hastings was at the forefront of modern engineering technology during the Victorian period, where innovation and design were welcomed as part of the great leap into the future. For instance

The **Funicular railways of East Hill and West Hill Cliffs**, which provide access to Hastings Country Park via East Hill and Hastings Castle and St Clement's Caves via West Hill. The West Hill Railway opened in 1891 whilst the East Hill Railway opened in 1903, which originally operated on the radical water balance principle.

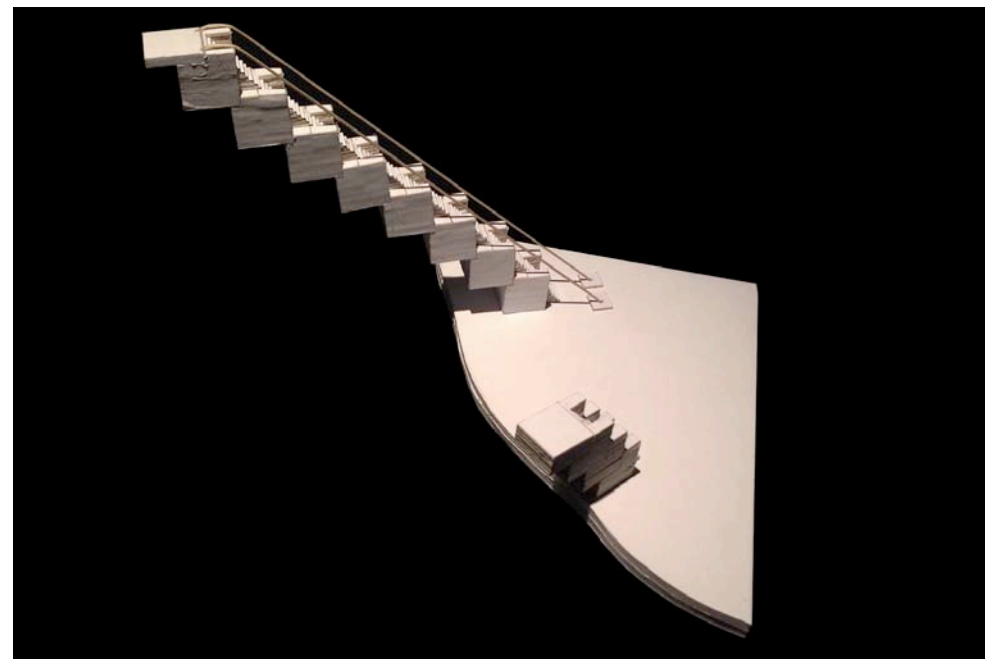
**Hastings pier** was opened on 5 August 1872 by the then Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Earl of Granville. It was designed by Eugenius Birch, who also designed the West Pier, Brighton. It is noted as an innovative design of the late-Victorian period.

The **first tramcars** arrived in Hastings in July 1905 and the initial public service began, running the original circular route.

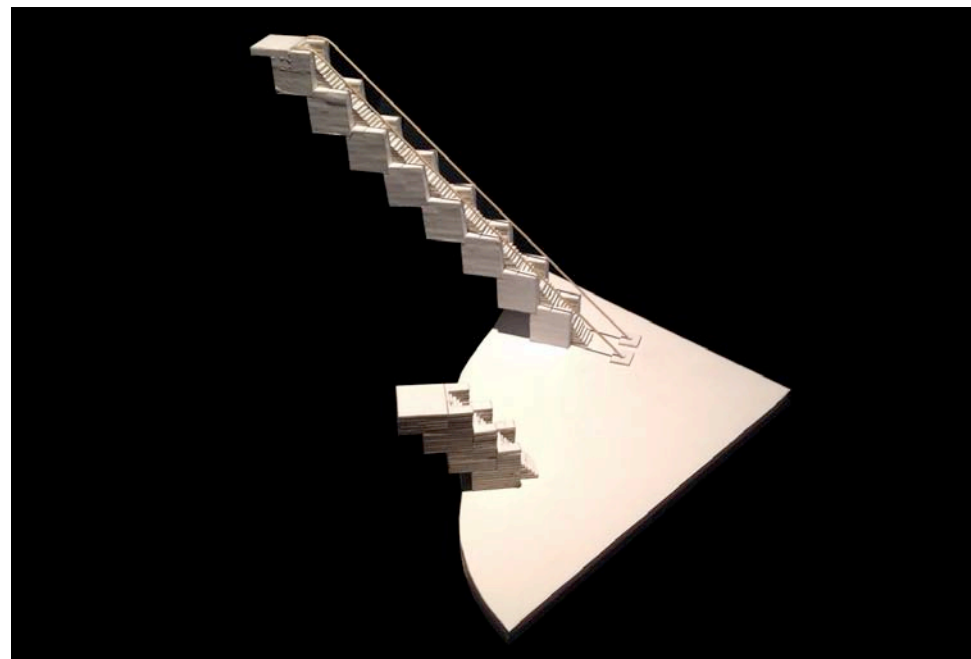
Our scheme is proposing to reminisce and recreate the engineering marvels of the Victorian period by rebuilding the square kype of Hastings castle at the edge of Ladies Parlour in the form of a tower with steps to nowhere. This will enable unbroken disconcerted (due to the precarious nature of the tower) views over the entire town and directly onto the largest beach launched fishing fleet in Europe, famously painted by Turner. Steps are to be carved out of the solid square blocks. Each block balanced precariously on top of the other. Utilising current modern day engineering the blocks will be held in place by their own weight and two steel cables attached to the upper block and then directly to the ground at the foot of the tower. The tower will rise at the edge of the West Hill cliff edge and sit precariously over the town. A walk up the steps will not be for the faint hearted.



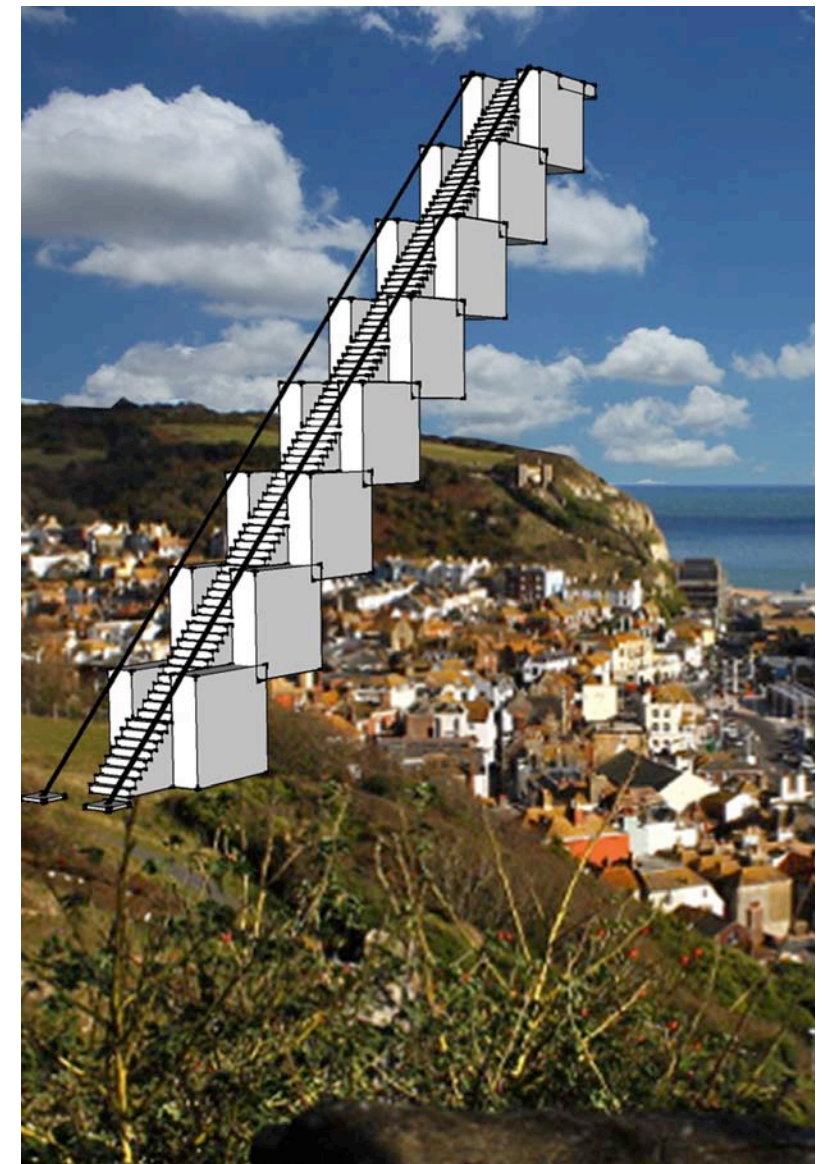
L  
O  
C  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N  
  
P  
L  
A  
N



M  
O  
D  
E  
L  
  
I  
M  
A  
G  
E  
S



I  
M  
A  
G  
E  
S  
  
A  
R  
O  
U  
N  
D  
  
H  
A  
S  
T  
I  
N  
G  
S



SO CREATE A DIFFERENCE

DD Architects  
Ladies' Parlour  
Hastings Castle

Hastings Castle and Ladies' Parlour have recently been the focus of attention as a result of the Council's intention to seek funding for much-needed improvements to the visitor facilities to the Castle. Whilst not addressing the same brief, this concept embodies a very different approach.

