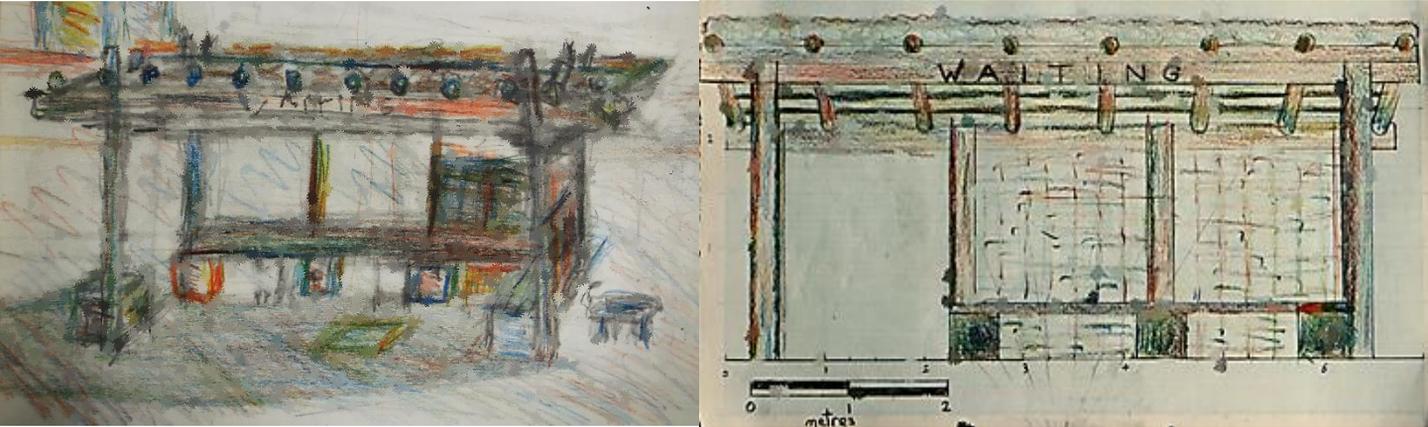


## **STILL, WAITING, Proposal for a bus shelter in Friston**

I saw in a recent newsletter suggesting that a new bus be constructed on the east side of the road on the green in Friston. I attach a design I have come up with for this structure.



### *The form*

The shelter is simple in form. It is built entirely from natural materials. It is an example of “Ecotecture” and aims to be environmentally low impact with as small a carbon footprint as achievable.

It takes the form of a two or three bay structure. The three bay version (mark 1) shown is c6m long x c2m wide. A two bay equivalent (mark 3) would be 4m long x 2m wide. This is too big for the practical requirements of the numbers of people likely to use the shelter. The mark 3 version, currently favoured is 2, or perhaps 1.5 bays, wide (3 or 4 metres long x 2m wide).

It is covered by a thatched roof sloping backward, away from the road. At its southern end it is walled with three Hazel panels. The mark 3 version uses just 2.

It is completely open at its northern and western sides in the three bay form (shown). In its two bay form it would, probably, be completely closed on its eastern side. The openness allows people waiting within to see the bus coming without leaving the shelter

## *Inspirations*

The ideas that inform this structure are drawn from a variety of sources.

The basic form is a simple post and lintel structure, like Stonehenge or the Parthenon, but on a much smaller scale!

It is also inspired by Chinese and Japanese architecture, particularly the traditional form of Chinese gateways and Japanese Tora gates. It is intended, loosely, to mimic and evoke these structures. The 3 bay form actually includes a gateway element at its northern end.



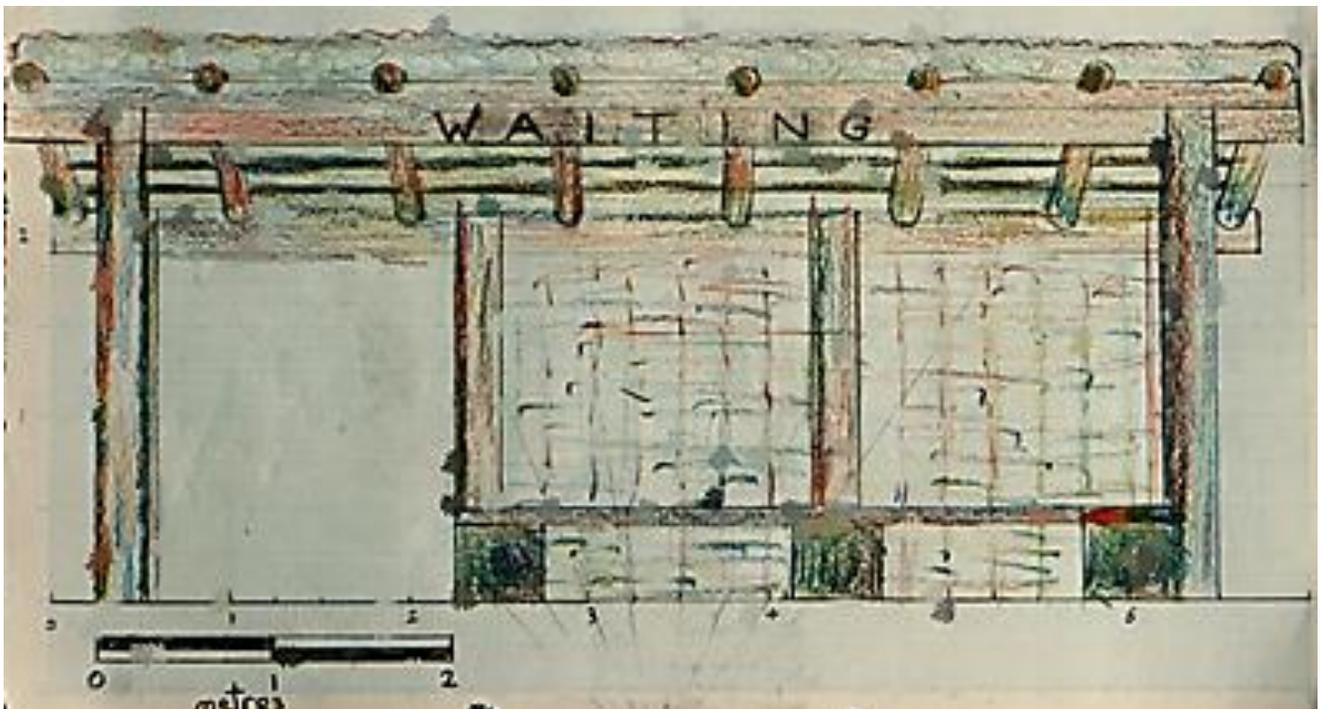
It also draws ideas from the work of Scottish artist and creative type, Ian Hamilton Finlay. Specifically it borrows from his idea of carving words on structures to change their resonance and/or communicate ideas. In his hands these are sometimes philosophical, sometimes comic and sometimes obscure and utterly impenetrable.

## *Waiting, Still/Waiting Still/Still Waiting*

The beam forming the top front is simply carved with 2 words. From the exterior the word "WAITING" is visible. From the interior the word "STILL" is seen. The diagonal setting of this beam helps achieve the effect of only allowing one word to be clearly visible from either side.

The idea is that, externally, the word "WAITING" looks very functional, ostensibly describing what the structure is for. From within the word "STILL" is visible to people waiting. This is a description of their inaction. However the word "STILL" has layers of meaning. Including; motionless, calm, unruffled, serene, quiet or to make quiet. The idea is that a time and space of waiting need not be occupied by fretting about where the bus is, but can be an opportunity for reflection and a meditative experience. The word STILL carved above is a reminder of this possibility and an encouragement to take this opportunity.

However there is also an implicit joke in that the two words put together make "STILL WAITING" or "WAITING STILL" which describes a common perception whilst standing at a bus stop. It also, at a more profound level, characterises a pervasive feeling of frustration and unsatisfactoriness that is a part of the human condition.



## Components

The shelter is built entirely of natural materials. It is an example of “ecotecture” which is growing architectural movement that emphasises the relationship between natural materials and buildings.



There are 4, 5, 6 or perhaps 7 upright posts. These are envisaged as squared wood, probably oak or sweet chestnut. There are 4 square section pieces of wall plate. These are hardwood too.

The beam forming the top front is mounted diagonally (in a diamond setting viewed end on). It is supported on two of the uprights (minimum). This beam on the mark 3 version would be c2.5-8m long.

There are 4 (perhaps more) large blocks of wood (c40x50x50 cms). These could be partly buried hardwood, roundwood sections of tree or squared timber. They support a hardwood, characterful, plank seat.

The roof structure comprises ash poles and rafters (c12 poles). There are 2 (mark 3) square Hazel hurdles forming walls at one end. The roof is thatched with reeds. The floor is simply beaten earth. There may be a small gully dug behind the shelter to prevent water shed from the roof flowing into it.

## Carving

I have been carving, memorials, signs and plaques for many years.

S T I L L



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