



Obelisk, Private Estate, Oxfordshire



The completion of the Obelisk:

Phase one was completed by the team in 2012, phase two was the addition of four large carved lions set on pedestals arranged diagonally at the foot of the obelisk.

Carved from the same carefully selected Massangis Limestone as the earlier Obelisk, each Lion consists of five in number, full meter cube blocks and are set on pedestals of Syreford Cream and Derbyshire Grit stone.

The lions are copies of the Canova Lions at Chatsworth House and their creation employed a mix of the most cutting edge technology in the capture of the digital images and the CNC work to the very best traditional craft skills in the hand finishing and installation. Each lion took twenty weeks from the arrival of the blocks from Burgundy to installation on site.



Discussions commenced on with the Architect mid 2013 exploring the scale of the project and how it could be realised.

The Chichester Stoneworks team prepared preliminary drawings and cost plans and investigated the methods of creating lions of sufficient grandeur and scale. The models selected to copy were the Canova Lions (19th Century copies of) situated in the sculpture gallery at Chatsworth House. Over a series of meetings and following much photography the plan began to emerge; with the kind permission of the Duke of Devonshire we would laser scan the lions at Chatsworth, convert the data into machine files and from blocks of Massangis limestone we would remove the waste on a CNC robot and then hand finish. Simple!



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The lions at Chatsworth were carved to fit against a monument and so were unfinished on one side. The missing sections had to be moulded in the computer space, this, to say the least, would be a time consuming and challenging process but we found an excellent 3d team, who not only produced stunning images of the copied lions but also had the technological capability and the intellectual capability to create the models.



Client: Private Client
Main Contractor: Chichester Stoneworks Ltd
Architect: Whitfield Lockwood Architects

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CASE STUDY