



WHERE WATER WALKED

Waterfronts are typically understood and experienced through the intensity of their daytime activity. Boats rise from the sea and traverse the harbour, industry swiftly operates its complicated mechanisms along the docks, and crowds of tourists animate the edge of the town. In this condition, the shoreline is fixed, defined by piers, boundaries, buildings, and infrastructure that frame the boundary between land and sea as a site of production and spectacle; a carefully constructed monument to human achievement.

Yet, this condition is only temporary. At night, when the harbour quiets and the business of the day recedes, another moment softly arises. The water slows. Light scatters across its surface. The sounds of machines give way to the gentle rhythm of the tide. The waterfront ceases to be an engineered edge, instead emerging as a blurred boundary between water and land, revealing a coastline that existed far before the docks extended the land outward.

Where Water Walked aims to reintroduce the memory of this forgotten shoreline. A narrow canal traces the former edge of the harbour, quietly restoring the water's ability to define the edge of the town and occupy its historic place. At night, this space becomes a place of encounter and reflection. Visitors may linger along the edge, watching the ripples and small waves slowly move through the traced canal, listening to the water lightly warping and flowing. Someone may set a small paper boat into the water, letting it drift along with the current. Another follows. Soon, a handful of quiet vessels move together, carried by the same gentle motion that once guided boats to this town. In these fleeting moments, the harbour dissolves into something else, a shoreline that negotiates between land, water, and the people who gather near them. Through this lens, the water reveals itself as a renewed awareness of the coastline as living memory, shaped by tide, moon, and time.

Rather than maintaining the waterfront solely as a site for human activity, this intervention allows water to regain its place and dictate the land, briefly restoring a relationship between harbour, town, and tide that has been temporally and spatially obscured. For a moment, the harbour remembers, and the shore returns to its home, bathed in light of the moon and stars, as if greeted by an old friend.



