



A majestic statement for the grand entrance to this beautifully refurbished club





A grand entry statement

As part of a major refurbishment of the Lion Sports Club, architecture firm Cayas asked Natureworks to create a sculpture for the redesigned, visually stunning entry area. This was no ordinary entry statement! The architect's vision was for a majestic lion sculpture set atop a cascading water feature. Their intention was to create an impressive, highly memorable experience for club visitors.

The lion as a memorable symbol

A lion was a natural symbol to represent the name of the club and provide a powerful icon that visitors would remember. Known as the king of the jungle, the lion is a symbol of strength and power.

Initially, the architects proposed the sculpture be manufactured in concrete. However, Natureworks suggested the sculpture be done in bronze. Why? Because this gave it more value, changing the dynamic of the sculpture from a statue to an art piece. The idea was enthusiastically adopted as the preferred medium, and the final sculpture in all its glory is a testament to the value of that decision.



The Lion sports and entertainment club is at Richlands, Brisbane..
thelion.net.au



Cayas are a leading commercial architect firm based in Brisbane..
cayasarchitects.com.au

Photographer: **Toby Scott**





Designing and building the lion sculpture

First of all, Natureworks designed concept artwork and 3D drawings for approval by the Cayas architect and client. Next, we started making the sculpture. Our factory in China built a 3.5m high steel armature, to which they applied modelling clay by following artwork specifications and structural drawings.

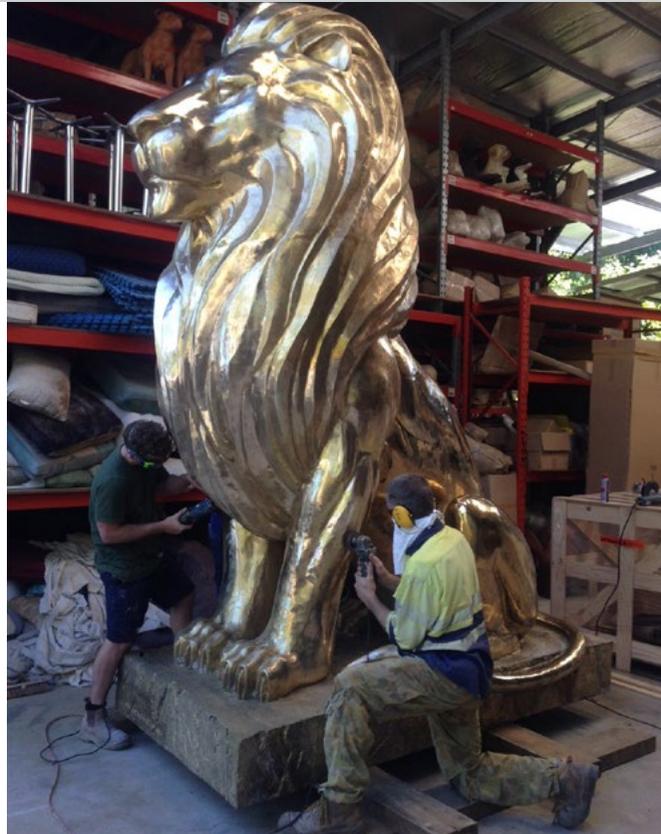
Natureworks monitored the sculpting progress throughout, until the general proportions and rough detail were right. At this point, a senior artist from our studio in Australia travelled to China to supervise aesthetic details of the sculpture.

Casting the sculpture in bronze

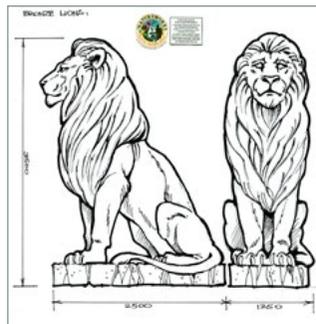
When the clay sculpture was perfect, we made a number of re-useable mould sections capable of receiving molten bronze. Once the moulds achieved the recommended curing time, we cast bronze shells from them. Each shell had a designated number and location, so they could be bronze welded together to form the lion sculpture. Our team cut back (chased) all welds, so the joint lines became all but invisible.

Finishing touches

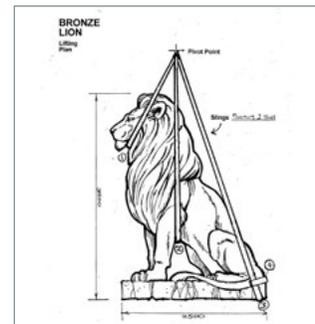
The bronze sculpture (with a finished weight of 1 ton) was then shipped to Brisbane. At this stage, we carried out further detailing and a higher degree of polishing. We then sealed it with a clear coating, and transported the sculpture by road to its final resting place at the new Richlands Club.



Polishing the bronze lion sculpture



Concept drawings



Plan for lifting the sculpture



It's not every day you see a giant lion driving down the road!



Positioning the lion on site



Rear view of the polished sculpture