

Oxford Swift Tower Design Competition:

DESIGN “A”



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SWIFT TOWER

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Criteria

The main objective is to provide a suitable home for swifts; I have therefore made sure that the tower fits all the criteria to give Oxford's swifts with a natural and healthy home.

The tower will directly represent swifts by having drawings of them both round the base (for the human population) and up at box level. Swifts are sociable birds so seeing other swifts, especially the babies will encourage them to nest there.

The tower needs to be safe. The steel base (up to 50 metres) will provide a strong structure with a lower centre of gravity. It will also discourage climbers, both human and squirrel.

The main structure will be hollow, which keeps the cost and weight low, reducing the need for deep set foundations.

The steel will fit in with the surroundings, representing the ratings and bridges in the park.

As this is mostly a tree filled area the top half of the tower will be constructed from wood. The natural shaping of the top half fits in with the surrounding trees.



A picture of a swift in flight



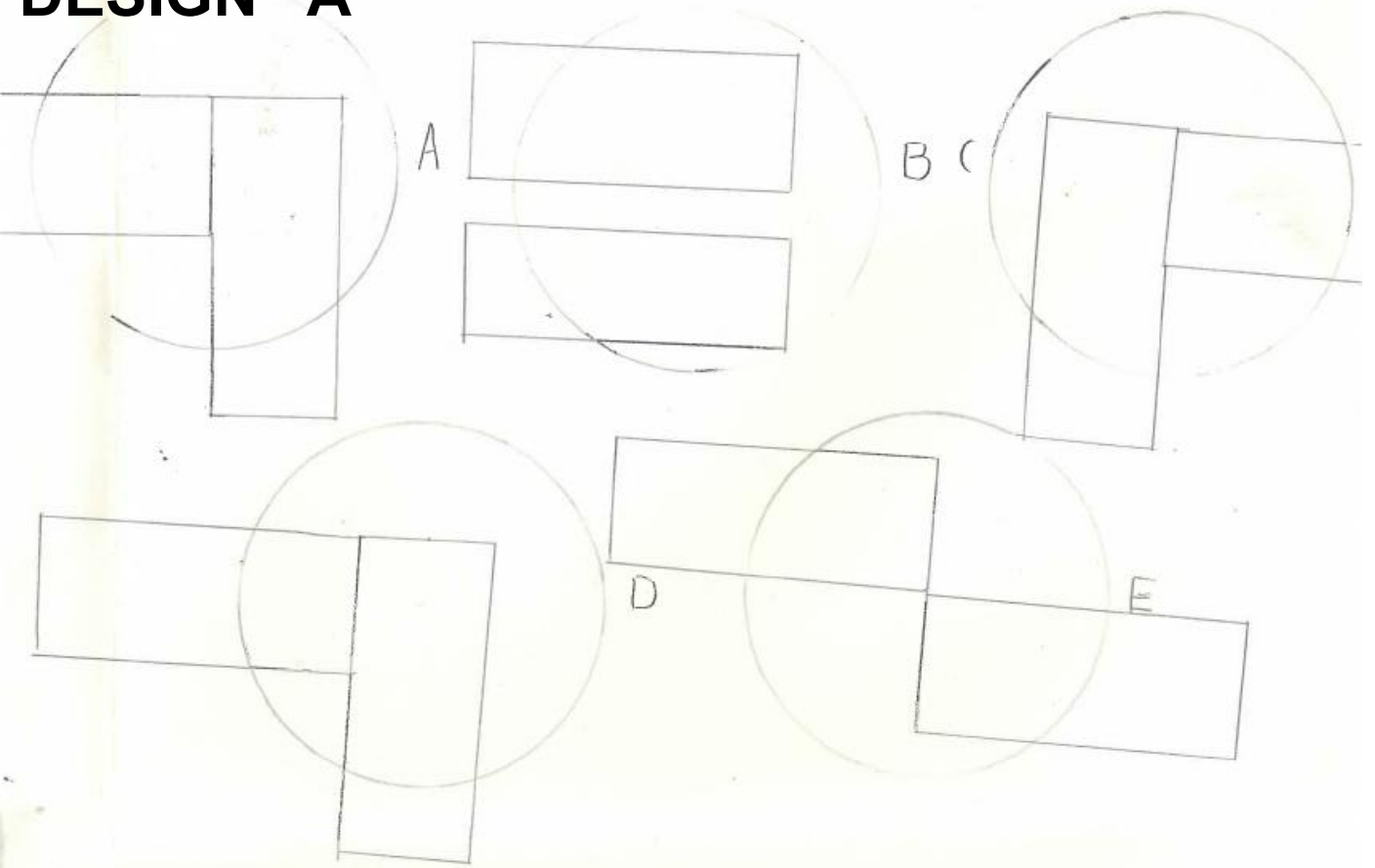
A swift climbing the tower



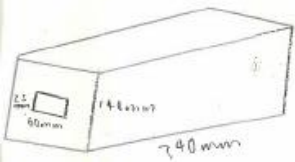
Two Swift hatchlings

the pictures that decorate the north side of the tower

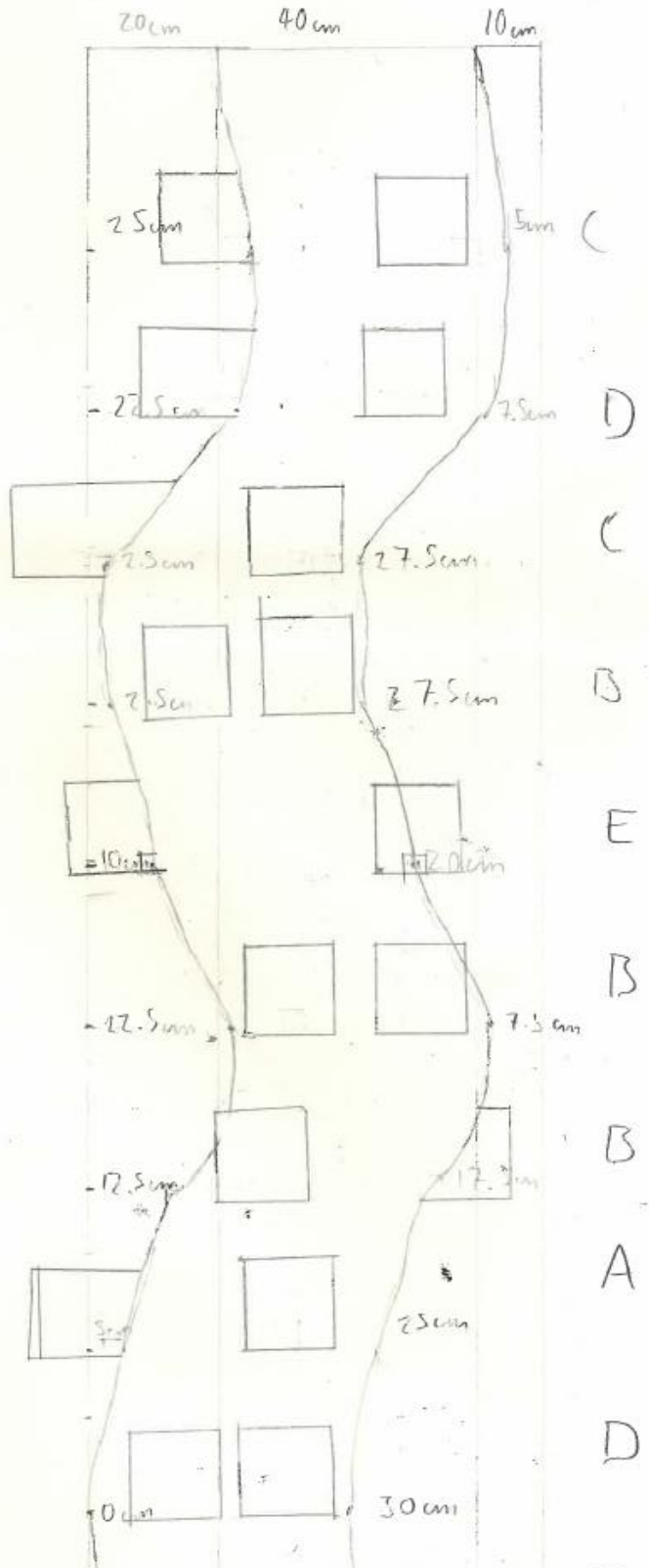
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I have decided to make the box's dimensions 34 x 14 cm externally, constructed from 10mm thick exterior grade ply-wood, this will give the internal dimensions of 32 x 12 cm and a hole size of 65mm x 25mm. The first 4 metres of the tower are made of metal in a transition shown on the previous page where there is a metre overlap before turning solid wood. The boxes, as previously stated are to be made from exterior grade ply. The box positionings are shown in the diagrams above and to the side with position A relating to circ. The tower is extremely weather resistant and is below the light over other trees is the or to prevent lightning! The tower can be paid for in well under £10000. The base is a 100cm concrete block attached at the bottom of the tower with 100x8mm foundation screws.



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University Parks by Charlotte Kinnear (RSPB)

RSPB artist's impression of how design “A” could look on site