

***This is the Wave Organ***

mentioned by Alan Counihan in the foregoing article. Built in San Francisco in the winter and spring of 1985-86, it was a remarkably unique large-scale structural/sculptural artwork project. The concept was that sound generated by sea water washing into and out of pipes would travel through pipes to a listening station on the shore, creating aquatic "music". The material for the construction was conveniently to hand - tons and tons of hand-carved architectural stone fragments.

In the 1950s a San Francisco cemetery was relocated. Bodies were disinterred and transferred along with their head stones to another site.

The architectural structures, however, mausoleums monuments and tombs, were bulldozed, loaded on trucks and distributed along the breakwater of the jetty protecting the yacht marina from the waves of San Francisco Bay. At the end of the jetty was the project site. Thirty years of wave action had softened the broken edges of the hand carved granite blocks, giving them an ancient appearance. Also available for use were granite cobblestones and curving curbstones which had been removed to provide wheel-chair access at street corners throughout the city.

Assembling this chaotic wealth of material into a coherent structure, an archetonic spatial environment was the task of sculptor/stone mason George Gonzalez and myself. The project cost \$160,000 and took nine months to complete during which time we learned a great deal about worksite management and became proficient at shaping, moving and placing massive stones.

T.L.





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