

## BREAKING BOUNDARIES, ASHFORD

Artist: Nayan Kulkarni (Lighting), Simeon Nelson (Flume/Paving Detail) in collaboration with Whitelaw Turkington

Client: Kent County Council  
2009

RKL were engaged to work on the detailed design and implementation of innovative streetscape improvements. These replaced a one-way four lane ring road with a series of two way quality streets. The design approach drew on the concept of 'shared space' and the artists, John Atkin, Nayan Kulkarni and Simeon Nelson, were brought into a collaborative design process.

What was once a race track the ring road was transformed into a series of interconnected streets and high quality, people friendly, spaces. The integrated, sustainable drainage system was celebrated in the work *Flume* by Simeon Nelson who created a distinctive floorscape tracing the influence of water on Ashford. The lighting strategy, to create a special night time presence, was led by Nayan Kulkarni who designed a bespoke family of lighting columns. Their form and shape enhanced the sense of street space and rhythm. John Atkin designed a range of street furniture and surface finishes at a major junction.



## LOST O, ASHFORD

Artist: Michael Pinsky (plus Akay & Made, Roadsworth, Simon Faithfull, Gary Stevens, Dan Griffiths, Mark Prier, Thomson + Craighead, Brad Downey, Bryony Graham, Olivier Leroi & Oliver Winconek)

Client: Kent County Council  
2007

A series of temporary urban interventions were commissioned for Ashford and included a residency for the artist Bryony Graham with the construction team. Ten other national and international artists were commissioned to mark the passing of the ring road and the arrival of the Tour de France in Ashford in 2007. The 'Lost O' was an audacious and unpredictable programme, embracing a herd of sheep in the town's churchyard, a flock of birds sprayed into the road surface along several hundred meters, urban graffiti on an epic scale and street signs recycled to form a monument to highway follies.

Images show work by Roadsworth/Peter Gibson and Oliver Winconek

