

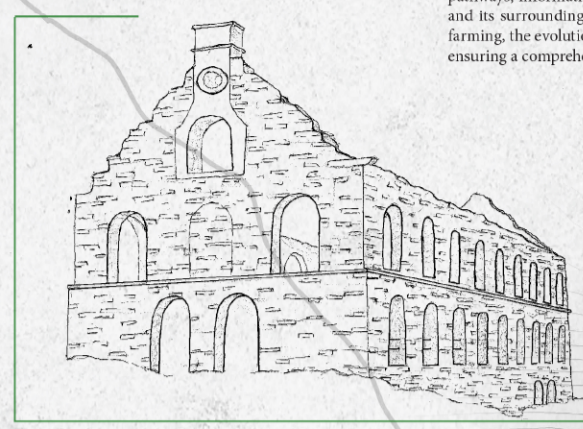
Bringing the Outside in

This project aims to revitalise Ynys y Pandy slate mill in Snowdonia National Park, blending its historical significance with modern design. The goal is to create a space that respects the past highlighting the area's natural beauty, agricultural resilience, slate mining history, and cultural importance of the Welsh landscapes while looking towards the future.

The design focuses on visitor engagement through accessible pathways, information hubs, and sculptures that tell the story of the mill and its surroundings. These features aim to educate visitors about local farming, the evolution of slate mining, and the Eisteddfod, ensuring a comprehensive view of Welsh heritage.

The design also incorporates multi-level access to accommodate the land's natural contours, allowing exploration from different perspectives. The magnificent windows are a crucial element, framing views of Snowdonia and bringing the outside in. This interaction between the interior and exterior aims to create a sensory experience, enhancing visitors' connection to the landscape and the building's historical narrative.

Overall, the project aims to honour the mill's legacy and inspire future generations by showcasing the resilience and beauty of Welsh culture and environment.



Ynys y Pandy Slate Mill

The impressive three-storeyed Ynys y Pandy slate-slab mill, and its surrounding yard, rail-access and water-supply system, was built to serve Gorsedda quarry in 1856-7 by the local contractor Evan Jones of Garmalbenmaen, probably the design of the distinguished engineer James Brunel. It is ingeniously planned so that the natural fall of the site assisted the manufacturing process.

An internal pit accommodated an overshot water wheel, supplied by the Henwy stream, and on the south side a long curving ramp brought branches of the railway from Gorsedda quarry into the mill at two different levels, serving the middle and upper floors. The grand, round-headed openings are closely spaced like a Roman aqueduct, and derive from foundry practice. The eastern gable is surmounted by decorative feature incorporating a false chimney stack, and the windows were at one time framed. It is one of very few architecturally ambitious buildings in the slate industry of Wales.

