

Designing the Seaside

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Preface

The purpose of this book is to piece together some elements of the making, using and representing of Western seaside architecture. The beginnings of the book, in a professional sense, date back to the late-1980s, while at a personal level its origins stretch back five decades to my own childhood experiences of the English seaside. Although the errors and misinterpretations are my own, the book has depended on a group of sometimes unwitting collaborators.

The book's themes have been developed in a variety of academic and public contexts. I am especially grateful to the students studying with the University of Sussex Centre for Continuing Education who have discussed and criticized my ideas. Particular thanks are also due to the following individuals: Eamon and Michel of Seafront Image, Brighton; Hilary Lane for help with my understanding of the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill; Sylvia Endacott for the information about Hothamton, perhaps the first planned resort; Jessica Rutherford, David Beevers and their colleagues in The Royal Pavilion, Libraries and Museums of Brighton and Hove City Council; Bob Bradley for opening the resources of Margate Museum to me; Philip Godwin for information about Cromer and Norfolk; Tim Loe for the material on and tour of Tinside Lido, Plymouth; Sue Berry for her insights into the early history of Brighton as a resort and English seaside parks and gardens; Andy Durr and Steve Peak for helping to explain the relationship of the fishing industry to holidaymaking in, respectively, Brighton and Hastings; Zena Thompson of Brighton, Jinty Rouke of Tauranga City Libraries, New Zealand, Margaret Evans of the Queenscliffe Historical Museum, Victoria, Australia, and Christian Deflandre of the Musée de la Carte Postale, Antibes France for providing access to some important images for the book; and, David Sawyers for his deep understanding of the significance of swimming in Brighton;

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Lastly, my gratitude to Carol, Jack and Holly, for enjoying so much seaside architecture with me and for putting up with the fixation that has so often led us on coastal diversions in various parts of the Western world in search of a pavilion, pier or lido by the sea. The book is for them.