

RENEW: WONDER

The viewing walkway that runs parallel to the pier is also built on Tide-catchers. These are built with local oak and recycled woods to complement the aesthetic of the main pier. Waves progress down the walkway, gently lifting and dipping visitors with the movement of the water. By traveling down the walkway, visitors participate in producing energy: their weight as they travel down the walkway adds kinetic energy to the generators. The small amount visitors literally contribute to the Catchwaters' energy output represents the small steps we all can make toward making the future renewable.

As guests look closer at the walkway and consider the role their weight plays in the project, they notice that the generators closest to shore are sometimes or always beached, and therefore are not actively producing energy. Marked on these units are future dates: "2050," "2075," "2100." These numbers represent the year that sea level is predicted to rise enough to lift the static Tidecatchers into continuous generation.

The project will have many straightforward benefits for visitors in addition to engaging the public with surprising and provocative approaches to renewable energy. The additional 422 meters of water-access walkway will be a boon for runners, bikers, and fishermen. What's more, the new moorings will be a source of income for the city and will revitalize local hospitality industries.

For the city, the catchwaters will generate enough renewable energy to power over 5000 households. For fisherman, the extended walkway means more opportunities to feed their families with new spots, new views, and the creation of more hard areas for fish and other ocean life to inhabit. For boat owners, the sheltered water means they can moor safely at Santa Monica for the first time in half a century, renewing a potential industry for the city. For visitors, the white wave is a dynamic sculpture that renews the breakwater concept into something as alive as the ocean. A project that they can actually participate in, and learn from.

Waves roll in along the walkway, and people on the walkway are also generating energy.

