

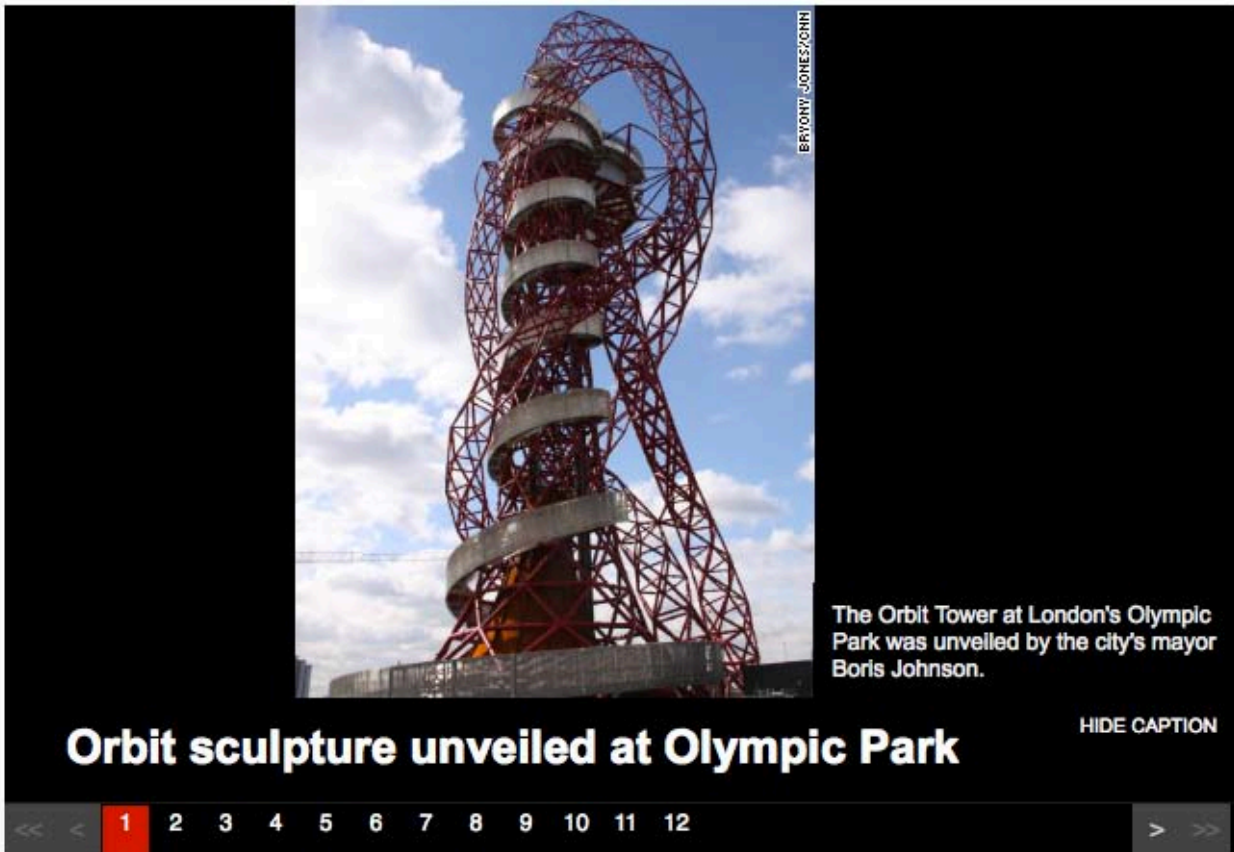
GLADSTONE GALLERY

Bryony Jones, "Orbit Tower unveiled at London's Olympic Park," *CNN*, May 11, 2012.

Orbit Tower unveiled at London's Olympic Park

By **Bryony Jones**, CNN

updated 2:45 PM EDT, Fri May 11, 2012



The Orbit Tower at London's Olympic Park was unveiled by the city's mayor Boris Johnson.

HIDE CAPTION

Orbit sculpture unveiled at Olympic Park

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Orbit Tower, designed by Anish Kapoor and Cecil Balmond, stands at heart of Olympic Park
- Tower stands 114.5m tall, making it Britain's tallest sculpture
- Structure is built from 2,000 tons of steel and covered in 19,000 liters of red paint

London (CNN) -- London has unveiled The Orbit, the sculpture at the heart of the Olympic Park, with the city's mayor claiming the bright red swirling structure -- likened by many to a rollercoaster -- is better than the Eiffel Tower.

Boris Johnson said the Anish Kapoor and Cecil Balmond-designed structure, which rises up next to the Olympic Stadium at Stratford in the city's East End was "a masterpiece of design and engineering."

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Bryony Jones, "Orbit Tower unveiled at London's Olympic Park," *CNN*, May 11, 2012.

- Flight of 455 steps lead to viewing platform offering views across London

"It endlessly repays the viewer, it is a very rewarding thing to look at. The Eiffel Tower is very simple, the Shard, behind me, is a piece of cake -- any child of two could do that -- this is much more elaborate, more sophisticated, more intriguing and complex," he told CNN.

The tower stands 114.5m tall, making it Britain's biggest sculpture, more than twice the height of Nelson's Column, almost six times the height of the Angel of the North, and 22m taller than the Statue of Liberty.



Visitors will climb 455 steps -- or ride one of two elevators -- to two observation decks offering expansive views across London.

Johnson and Lakshmi Mittal, CEO of steelmaker ArcelorMittal, joined forces to champion the creation of a large-scale sculpture at the Olympic Park -- after meeting in a cloakroom at Davos.



Johnson claimed the swirling, bright red sculpture, was "more complex" than the Eiffel Tower, and "endlessly rewarding" for the viewer.

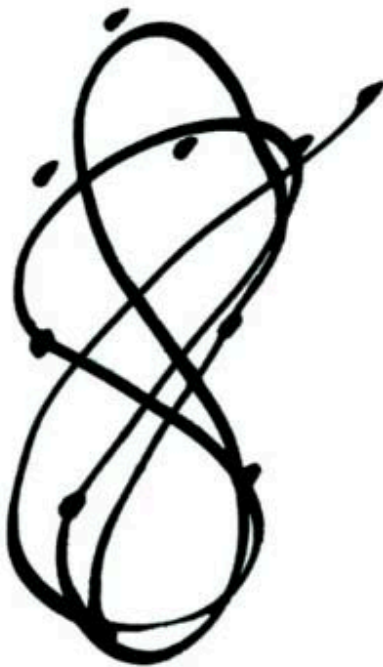
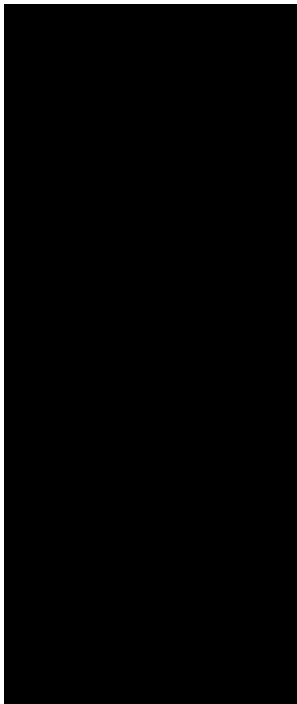
GLADSTONE GALLERY

Bryony Jones, "Orbit Tower unveiled at London's Olympic Park," *CNN*, May 11, 2012.



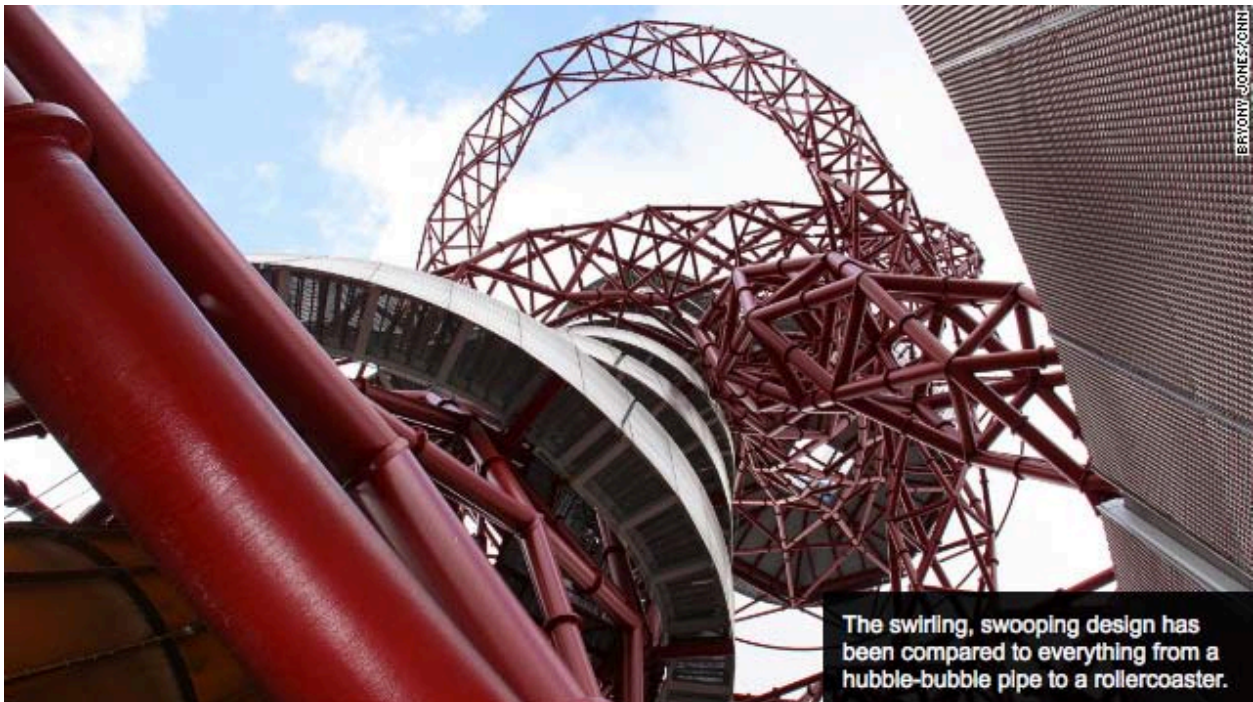
GLADSTONE GALLERY

Bryony Jones, "Orbit Tower unveiled at London's Olympic Park," *CNN*, May 11, 2012.



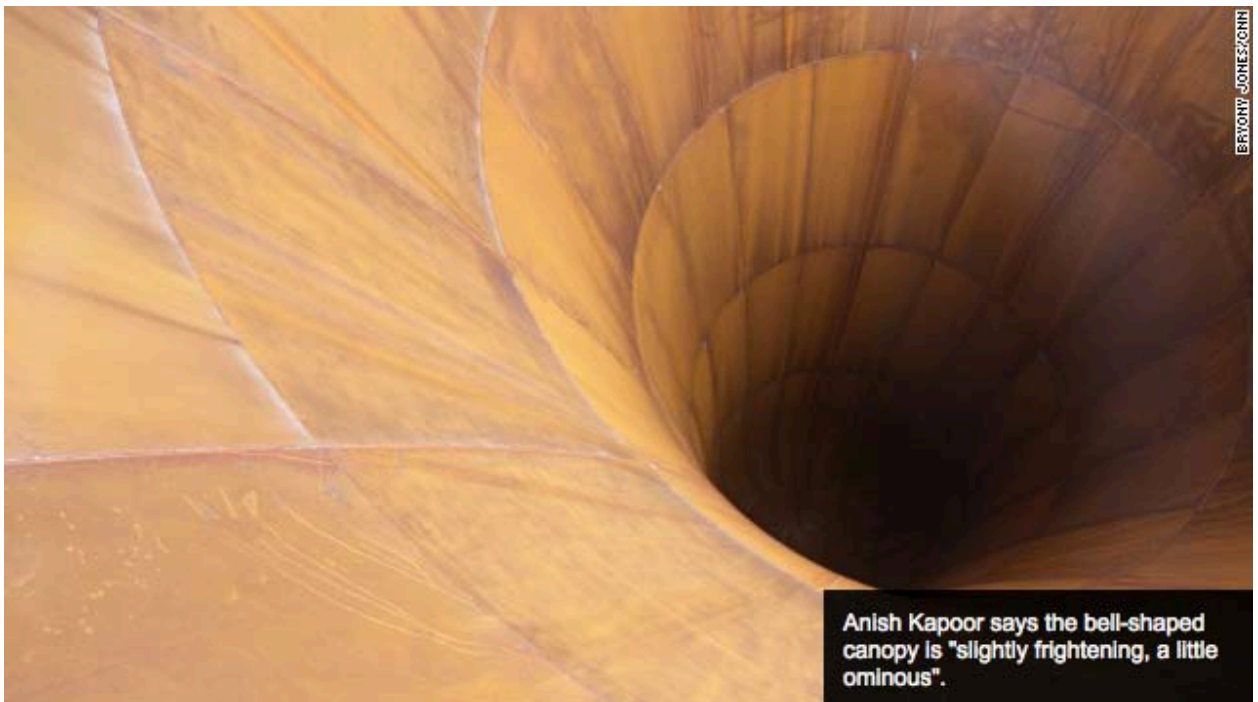
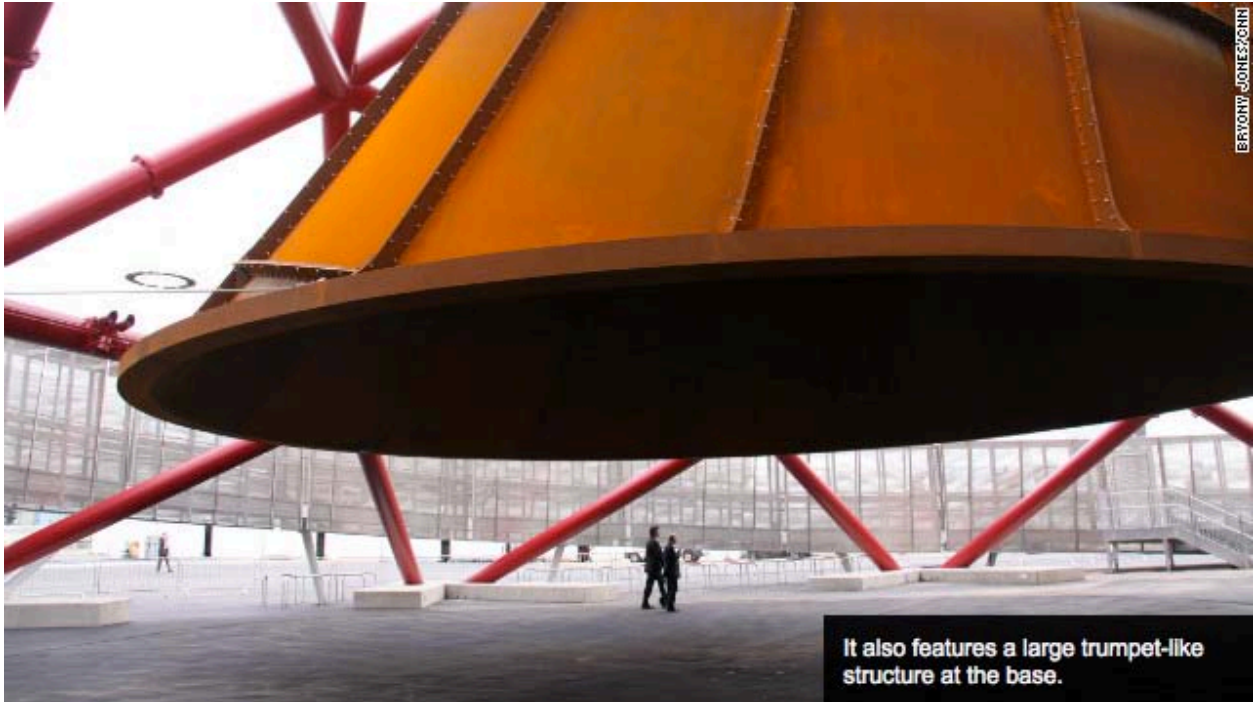
GLADSTONE GALLERY

Bryony Jones, "Orbit Tower unveiled at London's Olympic Park," *CNN*, May 11, 2012.



GLADSTONE GALLERY

Bryony Jones, "Orbit Tower unveiled at London's Olympic Park," *CNN*, May 11, 2012.



GLADSTONE GALLERY

Bryony Jones, "Orbit Tower unveiled at London's Olympic Park," *CNN*, May 11, 2012.

