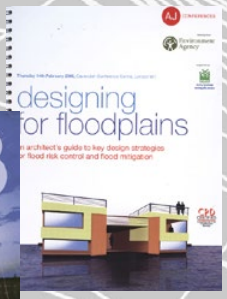
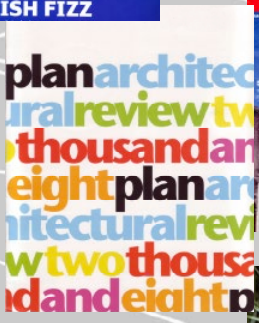
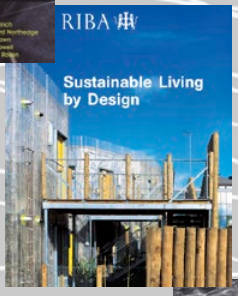
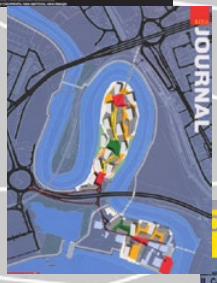
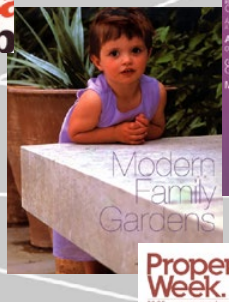
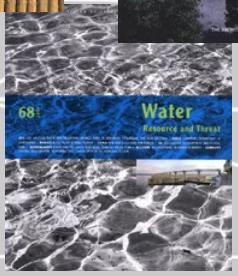








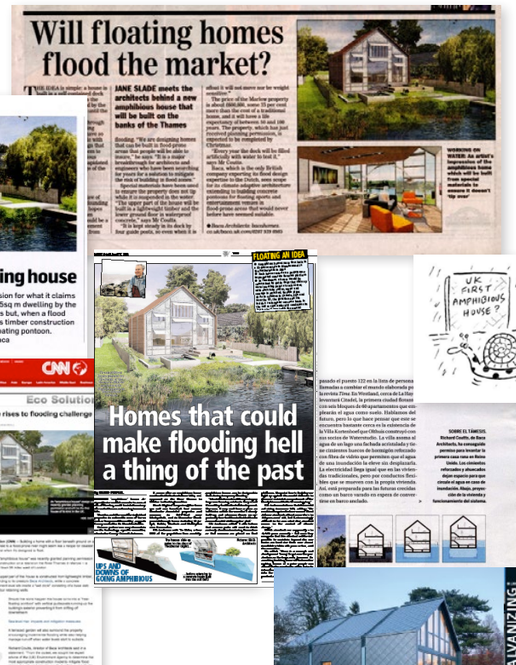




PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

Formosa
the Amphibious House

House that rises to escape a flood


Will floating homes flood the market?

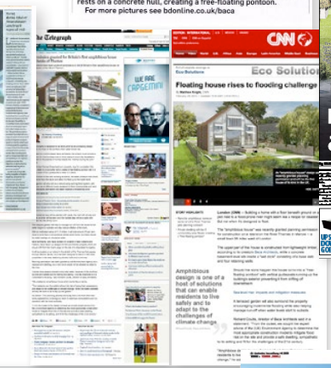
HOUSING
Baca to build floating house
Baca Architects has won planning permission for what it claims is the UK's first amphibious house. The 225sq m dwelling by the River Thames will rest on fixed foundations but, when a flood occurs, will rise up in its dock and float. Its timber construction rests on a concrete hull, creating a free-floating pontoon.
For more pictures see bdonline.co.uk/baca

Homes that could make flooding hell a thing of the past

FLOATING AN IDEA
UK FIRST AMPHIBIOUS HOUSE?

Amphibious House special

PROTECT AND SURVIVE


Floating house rises to flooding challenge

HOME & DRY

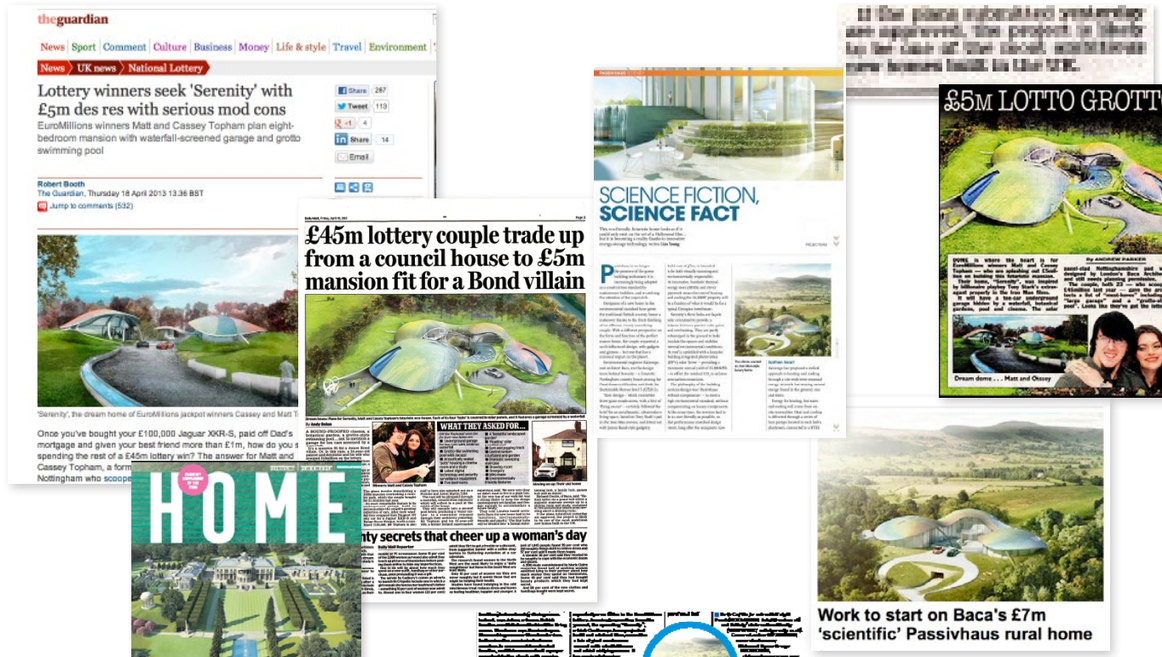
Let's float the idea

OBEN BLEIBEN

Rising
to the challenge
Formosa - Amphibious House

Fowlescombe Farm
Estate Renewal

The Arts and Technology House
Serenity



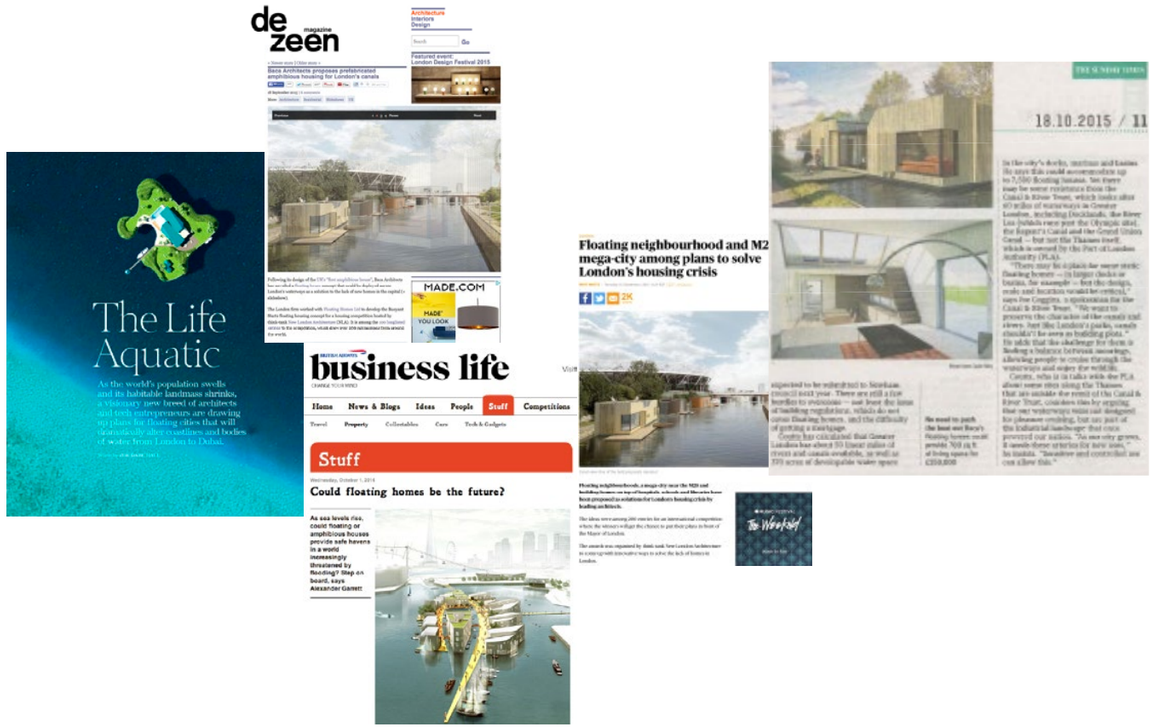
Photograph: Alastair Lever

Oak House

Homes & Design
Homes & Design
THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME
The Barcelona chair

Floating Homes

Visualisation: Baca Architects



Canting Basin Glasgow

FLOATING STRUCTURES

Futuristic designs, drawn up by Baca Architects, are envisaged for Pacific Quay, Glasgow, which is ringed around an 80-berth marina.

World's first
floating village

Utilising pioneering proposals from UK company Floating Concepts, Scottish Enterprise plans to create the world's first floating leisure village at Pacific Quay in Glasgow.

The project could create up to 450 local jobs and transform the Canting Basin at Pacific Quay into a floating community with shops, offices, houses, restaurants, a marina and a rooftop concert arena.

"All great coastal cities have a prime waterfront destination and with our plan Glasgow could join those ranks," says David Ruard, chief executive of Floating Concepts and owner of Liverpool Marina. The iconic nature of a floating village would turn the Canting Basin into a major tourism destination unmatched anywhere else in the world."

The Canting Basin covers five hectares of water bordering the Science Centre and IMAX cinema on the south-side of the River Clyde. Cutting-edge design and the latest environmentally friendly technology would be used to create a new canal with a U-shaped floating street comprising a flexible mix of two and three storey glazed office buildings, studio flats and town houses with their own private moorings. Moored in front of The Hub' digital media centre will be an eclectic mix of individual floating office and live/work units, ranging from 1000 to 3000 sq ft supplied by leading designers of floating structures from the Netherlands and Scandinavia. Units will be offered on either an 'off-the-peg' basis or to a bespoke design and build service where required.

The green, car-free environment, which could have its recycled refuse collected by barge, would accommodate shops, a hotel, restaurants and an 80 berth marina with a unique yacht club that would be open to the public. In order to encourage the use of the river for recreation and transport there would be a further 150 berths for residents and occupiers of the development and for visitors by boat.

Local company, Sea Force, is backing the proposals and would relocate its training and river trip base to the Canting Basin as soon as Floating Concepts is given the green light by Scottish Enterprise. Sea Force owner, Gregor Connelly, is also keen to help the Council set up a water taxi service from the site while Floating Concepts would use its experience at Liverpool Marina to help Sea Force set up a diving school.

"We have spent four years researching sites in the UK and developing the necessary technology. In doing so we have identified the

Dordrecht

SKY NEWS
HOME
UK NEWS
WORLD NEWS
PICTURES
YOUR PHOTOS
VIDEO
BUSINESS
POLITICS
SHOWBIZ NEWS
TECHNOLOGY
STRANGE NEWS
WEATHER
HEALTH
BLOGS
NEWS IN PICTURES
SURF'S UP - 365 DAYS A YEAR
Walking on water
designing for floodplains
an architect's guide to key design strategies for flood risk control and flood mitigation
Aquatique. Entre maisons flottantes et villes atolls, de nouvelles ruses pour gagner de l'espace face à la montée des eaux.

The LifE Project

LifE™
Project > Outputs > The LifE Handbook
Long-term Initiatives for Flood-risk Environments

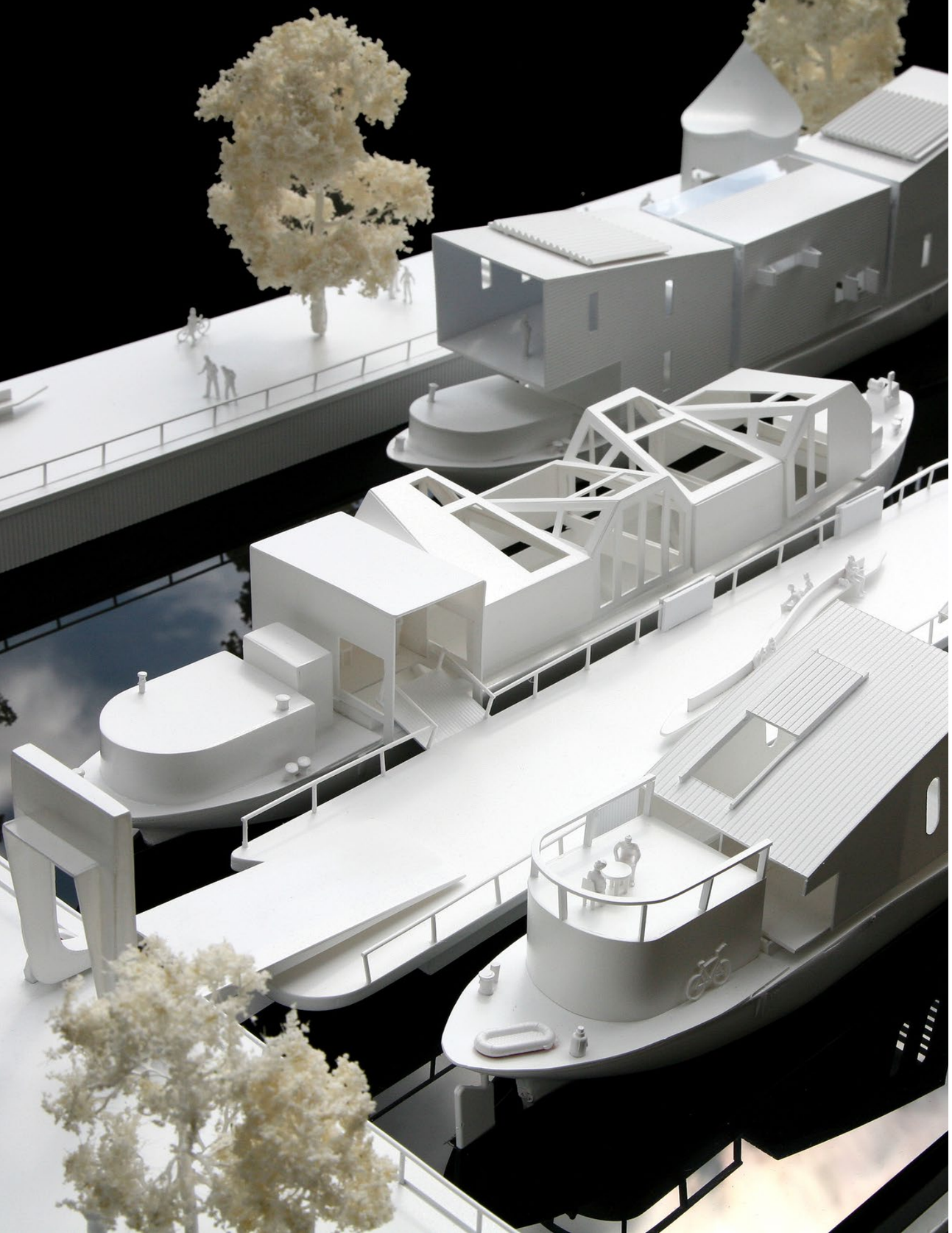
The LifE Handbook and the LifE Report are available to download from Amazon and the BRE bookshop.

www.amazon.co.uk
www.brebookshop.com
www.lifeproject.info

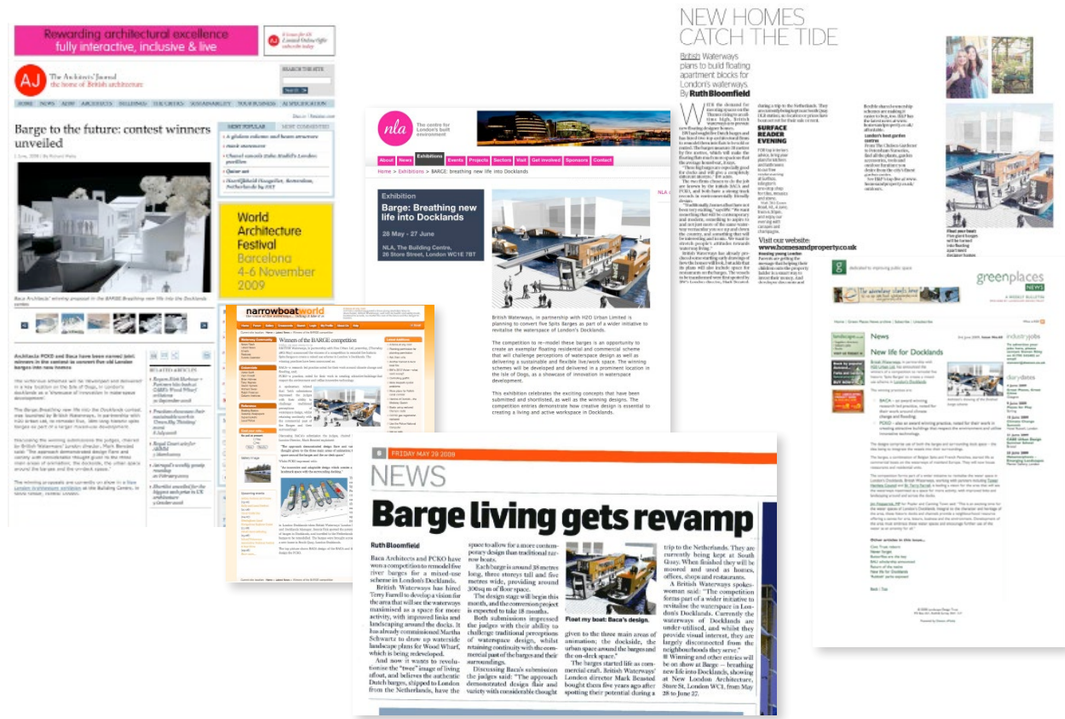
baca bre Halcrow cyril sweett LDA DESIGN
LifE is a trademark of Baca Architects

020 7250 3873 > mail@lifeproject.info > www.lifeproject.info

BBC Culture Show



Dockland Barges



Silvertown Quays

The Guardian
Newspapers

Open House: Green Sky Thinking

National

Comment is free...
Why reclassifying cannabis is pointless
guardian.co.uk/commentisfree

From the village green to the village blue

Floodable towns unveiled to beat rising water levels

Proposals aim to limit threat to riverside homes

Robert Booth

Plans for a new generation of "floodable" towns will be unveiled today with guidelines showing how homes and estates built beside rivers can be designed to cope with rising waters.

New advice for planning riverside and floodplain developments commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calls for pathways to double as canals and gardens to include floodable sections to stop waters rising and engulfing homes, as happened in Morpeth in the north-east in September and Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire in 2007.

A "village blue", effectively a lake designed to expand during floods which will also include facilities for swimming, boating and fishing, should also be built alongside the more traditional village green. Recreation grounds would be designed to flood and schools and community buildings would be built on higher ground.

The advice has been partly inspired by the canals of Venice and water dwellings on Tonle Sap, a lake in Cambodia which changes levels dramatically with each monsoon season.

It will be unveiled today at the Thames Gateway Forum and aims to revolutionise the design of settlements on floodplains beside rivers, in particular in the Thames estuary where the government wants to build 200,000 homes. Instead of living in fear of floods residents would coexist happily with occasional inundations, the authors said.

"Today we are seeing people trying to hold the waters back with sandbags, but if we design for floods then they won't catch people unawares and they can enjoy the benefits of living in amazing riverside locations," said Robert Barker, director of Baca Architects, which has drawn up the guidance with a team including the Building Research Establishment and Halcrow, an infrastructure company.

The advice includes details of a plan for a typical town in a similar mid-river position to Tewkesbury, which was largely submerged when the river Severn burst its banks last summer.

Flood waters should flow deliberately through streets to avoid worsening flood problems upstream and buildings should run parallel to the river and would be taller, leaving more open land for flood waters to soak away. Where possible, homes would be built above shops and offices.

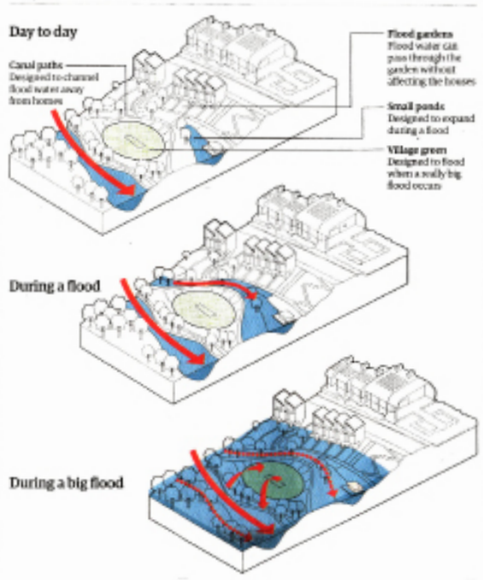
Sally Lawrence, 45, a resident of Twyning near Tewkesbury whose home flooded in July 2007, welcomed the proposals.

"We flooded because there was nowhere for the waters to go because driveways had been tarmaced and gardens paved over, so these sort of ideas should be implemented by our council," she said.

The advice is part of a £1.5m research programme overseen by Hilary Benn, the environment secretary, aimed at "making space for water" as an alternative to building costly flood defences.

The government has predicted that the risk of flood damage in the UK will increase in the next 80 years as a result of climate change, which could cause heavier downpours and storms.

The village flood plain



'Go greener' call to schools, jails and hospitals

Allegra Stratton
Political correspondent

Ed Miliband has used his first speech as climate change and energy secretary to call on prisons, schools and hospitals to generate more renewable energy.

Speaking to the Environment Agency yesterday, Miliband said the public sector, which accounts for 10% of land in the UK, should be contributing more than the 3% of renewable energy it now generates.

Miliband also called on the environment movement to put more pressure on his department in the run-up to international climate change negotiations next year.

The government will be pushing prisons, hospitals and schools to follow the example of Coombe Dean school in Plymstock, which won a legal battle overturning a planning decision preventing it from erecting two wind turbines.

Miliband also promised to ensure the government considered environmental concerns before making any decision on the third runway at Heathrow. The former minister Lord Smith, now head of the Environment Agency, has warned the government against a third runway.

Miliband said the government would be producing a "low-carbon industrial strategy".

The House of Lords economic affairs committee yesterday published a report saying it was sceptical that the government could meet a proposed EU target of generating 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020 if it relied too heavily on wind power.

Southbank could move onto 'iceberg' in Thames

Miranda Bryant

PARTS of the Southbank Centre could be moved onto what looks like a man-made iceberg during the centre's £120 million revamp, according to a firm of architects.

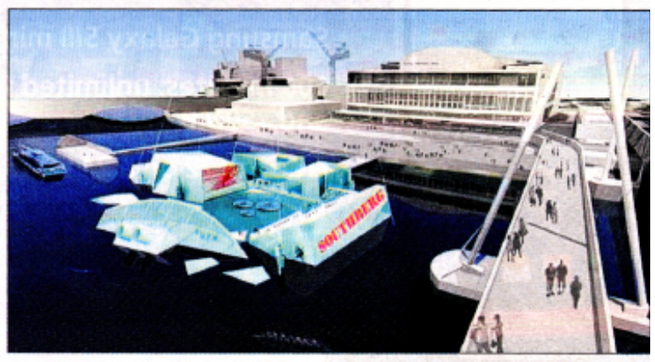
The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery complex – known as the Festival Wing – will close for three years while the building work is carried out and Baca Architects has proposed a floating structure, "SouthBerg", as a temporary home for some of its attractions.

Plans for the Southbank facelift include a glass pavilion in the sky, new performance spaces, roof gardens and a national literature centre and poetry library. The designs, by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, will go out for consultation with the aim of seeking planning permission in late spring and starting work in autumn next year.

Baca Architects said Southberg would take the form of large timber pavilions, designed around a central water courtyard, which could house an art gallery, café, cinema, shops and offices. The roof of one pavilion could be used for outdoor performances or dining, and another as a viewing terrace. They would be prefabricated off site and towed into place, the firm said.

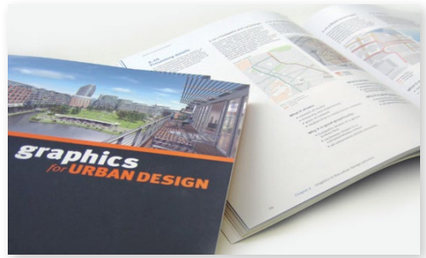
Once the revamp is completed, the pavilions could be towed away and reused in a London dock or divided into smaller units to form part of the Royal Docks floating village. The scheme is estimated to cost £12-£15million, but the operator would be expected to make back the money on trading.

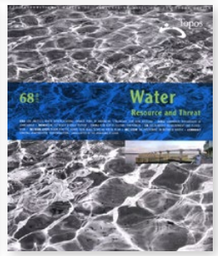
Robert Barker, director of Baca Architects, said: "A floating pavilion would provide complete continuity of service for this popular cultural destination throughout the refurbishment period and be a fun and striking waterfront attraction for Londoners and tourists alike on this busy stretch of the river."

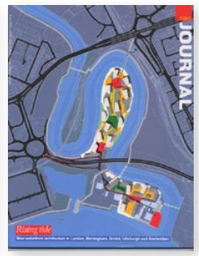


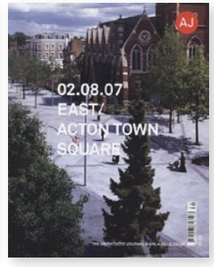
Floating an idea: SouthBerg would host arts while the centre has £120m revamp

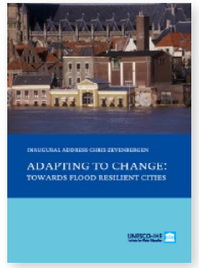
Press & Publications











baca homes

ARCHITECTS baca

www.bacahomes.co.uk
020 7397 5620