

**PETER  
SMITHSON**

We are turning the  
world around!



**ALISON  
SMITHSON**

Could Britain survive  
brutalism?



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limited edition  
**theutopian**

**MOMA 2018**

As part of the brutalist architecture exhibit, MoMA features Robin Hood Gardens by Peter and Alison Smithson; A building complex in East London which was close to seeing the end of its days in 2010. The exhibition highlights the hidden potential that saved the building from disappearing into the pages of forgotten history. The now iconic and well branded image of the Smithson project is the result of a conscientious analytical and historical conscience, and is an exemplary example of building re-use. Exhibit will be from the 2 July to the 19th.



ROBIN HOOD GARDENS  
ALISON AND PETER SMITHSON  
2 JULY - 19 JULY

**MoMA**

**I have been to  
Hell and back  
and let me tell  
you it was  
wonderful.**

Louise Bourgeois



**Modernist Past and Future meet:**

*Past:* Future, how's things?

*Future:* They're going, thanks. How are you?

*Past:* I'm alright, but... Well, I gotta be honest with you, I'm worried... what happened to you? You look awful.

*Future:* What?, Why?

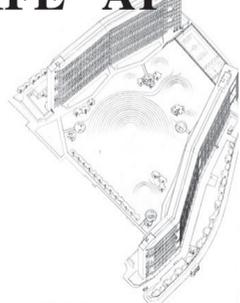
*Past:* You knew what to do!... I told you what to do! We had a plan, man... you killed it...

*Future:* What are you talking about? Things are going well, I'm progressing...

*Past:* You lost it man, look at you... nothing but flash and bling. We were honest, we were decent, man... we could have made it big, we could have conquered... you got weak on me!

*Future:* I've moved on, old man; look around you, we're changing... change or die.

**THE QUIET URBAN LIFE AT  
ROBIN HOOD GARDENS**



To achieve a calm centre the pressures of the external world are held of by the buildings and outworks. This is affected, as near to source of noise as possible, by the first layer of the boundary wall. Noises that penetrate this layer to the access deck along the outer facades are diffused by more domestic noises. The access decks are separated from the habitable rooms by the

**It provides a place  
for the  
anonymous client**

individual entrances and stairs so that this internal circulation acts as a further insulation to the bedrooms. These bedrooms have windows on the inner facade overlooking the quiet and protected garden. On this quiet garden site French windows open the rooms onto escape balconies, extending their usable space in "expansive" weather.

The Charged Void: Architecture, A.P. Smithson, 1967  
Monacelli Press

Robin Hood Gardens  
Blackwall Station  
East Docklands  
**27th JULY 2012**  
FREE T-SHIRT  
by ZENG  
whilst supplies last



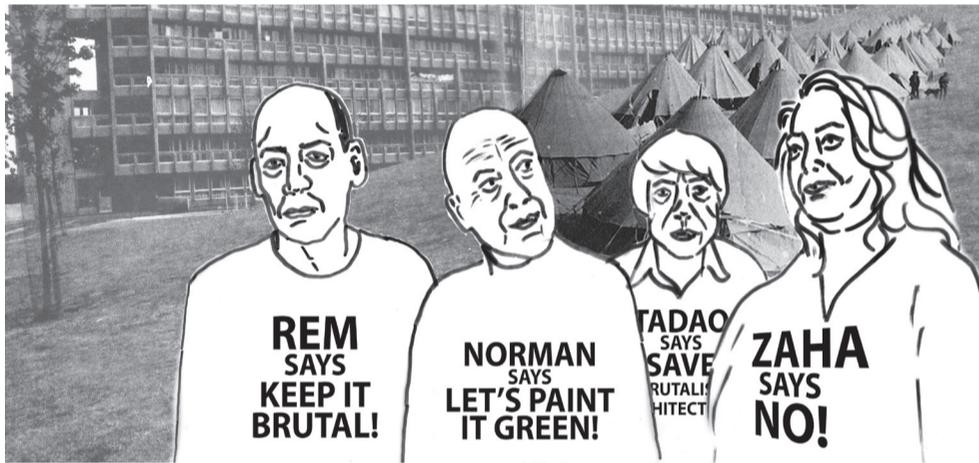
**OPENING NIGHT**  
FREE entrance  
before sunset  
20 pounds  
after sunset

# Living



## Wednesday 7th July 2010

Reports coming from the Architectural Association, Bedford Square, have suggested that London may be a dog. Mari Hunt, 23 of Tallinn, Estonia say's "it strikes me that London is all about people and the people of London are like dogs, running, panting breathlessly and marking their territory".



## Friday 23rd July 2010

A chaotic carnival of activists, celebrated architects and the homeless occupied the Robin Hood Gardens as plans were unveiled yesterday for the future regeneration of the Blackwall Reach area, amidst protests by supporters of the Brutalist social housing complex. This protest is already being described by some as a 'Brutalist Camp'. Just days after the eviction of the Parliament Square's 'Democracy Village' protesters, this is yet another blow for the new coalition government.

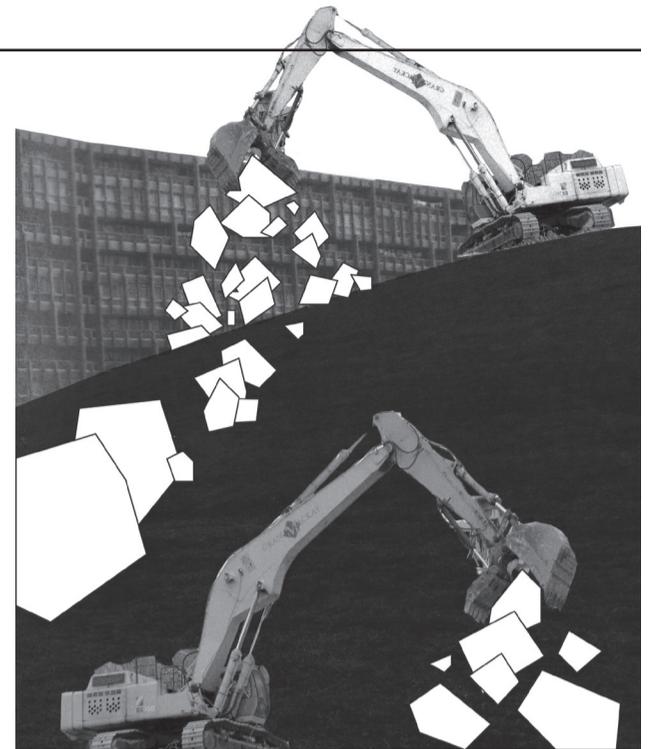


## Tuesday 1st May 2012

Olympic May Day Mayhem as squatters move into Robin Hood Gardens. After the gradual vacating of this former social housing complex in Poplar, East London over the last two years, the modernist split level flats have been occupied by some of London's most desperate homeless.

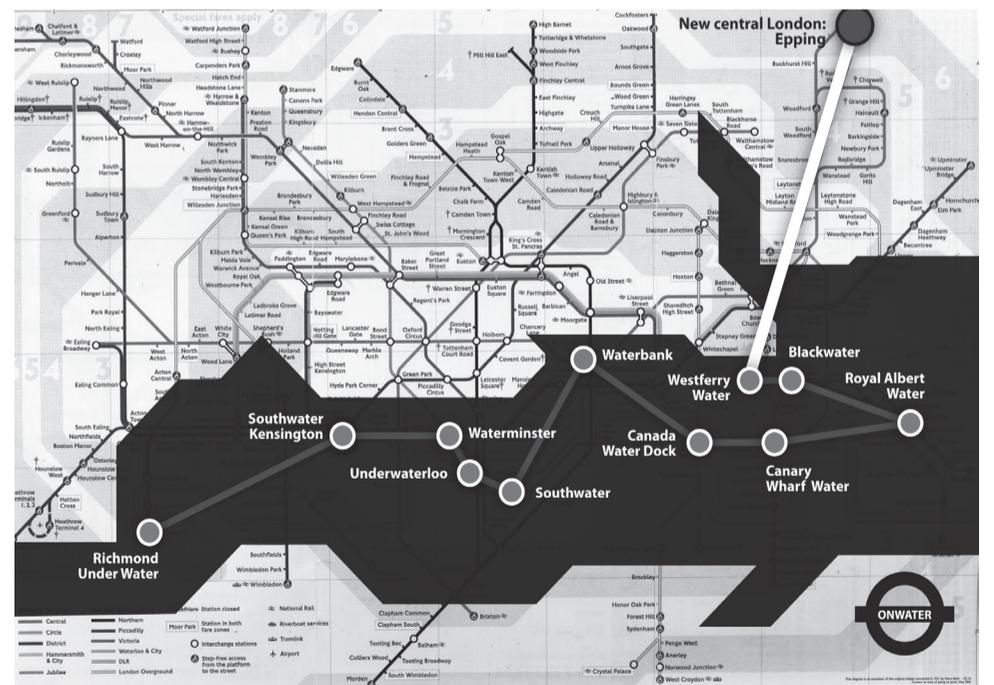
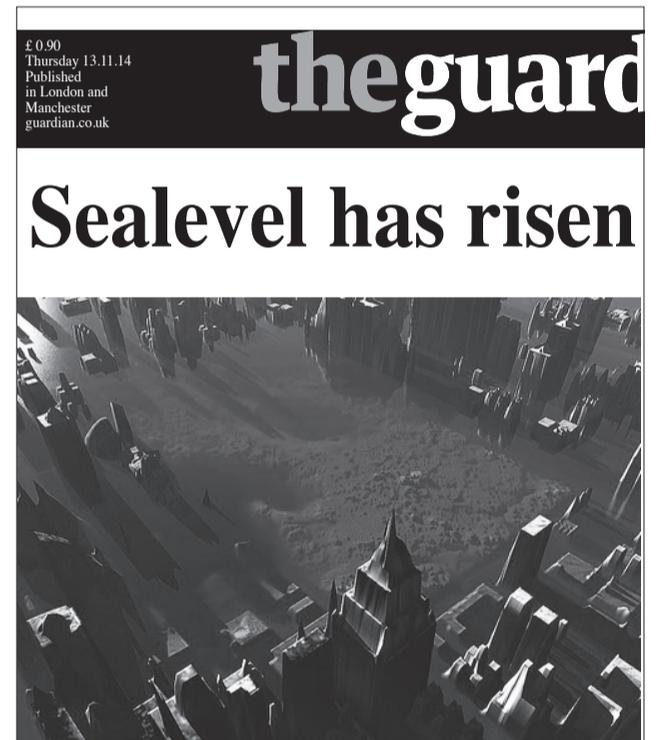
## Friday 6th June 2014

Bulldozers finally moved in today to begin work on the demolition of the former Robin Hood Gardens. This new development has been some 6 years in the process of planning and the future Robin Hood Heights will be available to buy from early 2016.



## Thursday 13th November 2014

Worldwide scenes of panic as polar caps melt completely and international sea levels have risen, conservative estimates suggest that the sea level may rise up to one metre. A United Nations state of emergency has been declared.

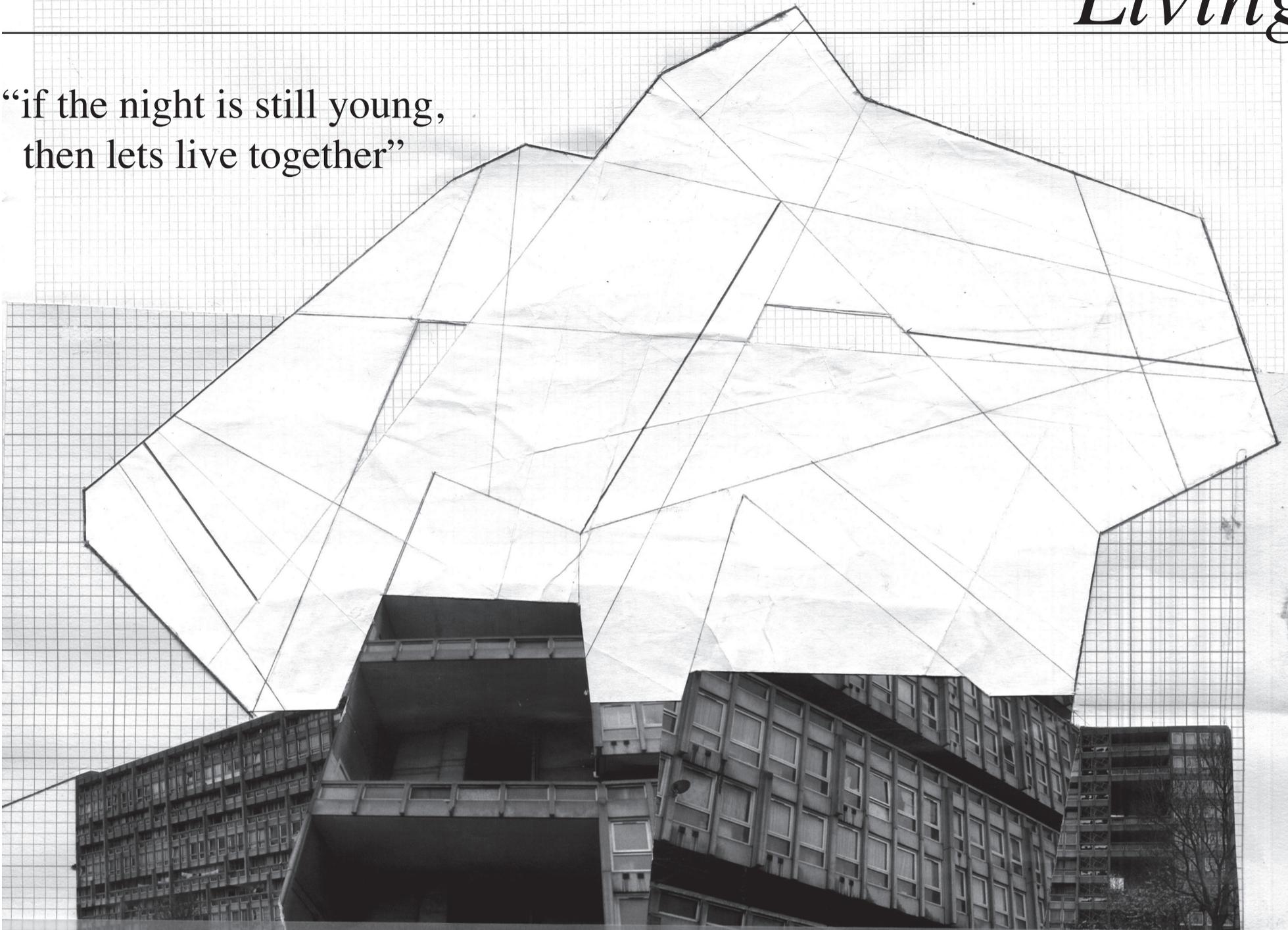


## Thursday 23rd July 2020

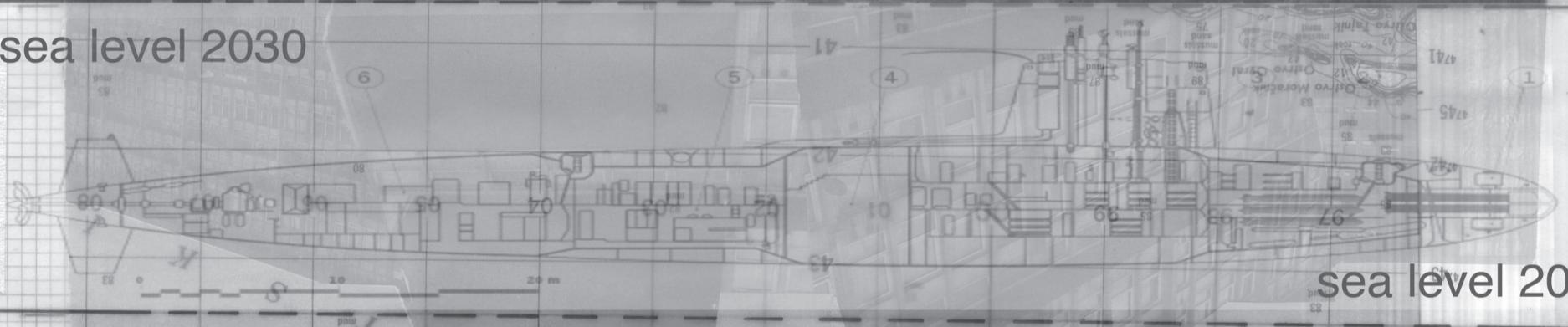
A New London has emerged from the floods of 2014 as Epping has become the new centre and London's transportation links have been altered to accommodate the rise in water levels. A new dockmap with new station names was today unveiled. Following the path of the old river Thames this new network will aim to serve the people of London as we move into a new era.

# Living

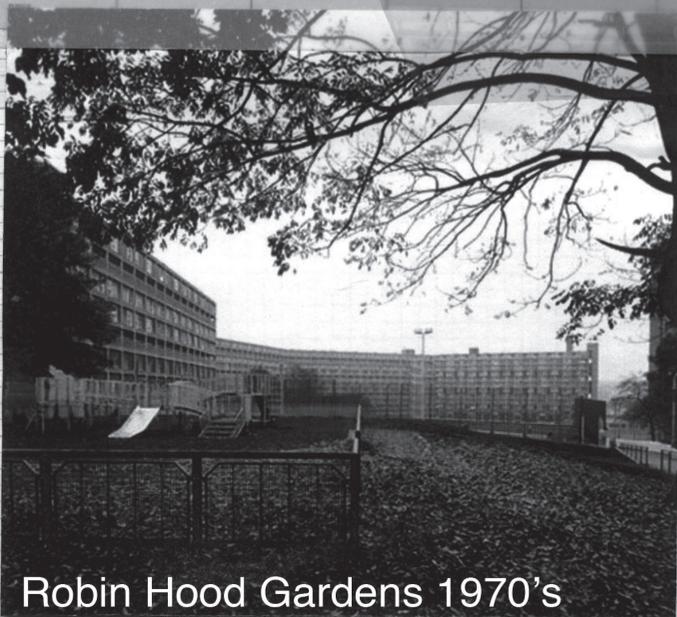
“if the night is still young,  
then lets live together”



sea level 2030



sea level 2010



Robin Hood Gardens 1970's

**PARA(site) HOMES Ltd.**

*keeping London afloat...*

**A new Blackwater development for 2030 using the old Robin Hood Gardens as the foundations designed and built by PARAsite Homes Ltd.**

# Living

## The Lost World of Robin Hood Gardens Re-imagined



This was once the domain of fiction books and Sci Fi movies but our dreams are now reality thanks to visionary architects Clement Blanchet & Mads Farso. The scheme was unveiled last night at a private reception at the Architectural Association for the reimagining of Robin Hood Gardens, Blackwater. The parasitic structures that have risen from the submerged foundations of

**“encapsulating Robin Hood Gardens in a complete underwater bubble”**

RHG since the Thames flood in 2014 will stay, but Blanchet & Farso vision will reinhabit this controversial estate by creating new homes in the depths of the murky Thames. Farso explains: ‘our plan is super simple; the housing modules are being built at Blackwater Dock, these will be submerged and floated into position encapsulating Robin Hood Gardens in a complete underwater bubble.

Before these modules are occupied the waters inside RHG will be drained and work will begin on renewing the flats, carefully restoring the Smithson’s dream’.

Robin Hood Gardens – Reimagined can be seen at the AA, 36 Bedford Square until August 16th



# Leisure

## Tender is the Void; Void is the Night

Following up the visionary plans set out by the Smithson's for designing of the Robin Hood Gardens (RHG), we are proposing to preserve the legacy and continue on a few central concepts such as "protection", "socialist dream" and "anonymous client".

In a context of the Blackwall Reach Regeneration project in East London, we are proposing a new radical idea that the newly renovated Robin Hood Garden (RHG) will offer an "empty void of space" where users can determine the functioning of the space.

We aim to inject slowness into a city that is fast-paced, overcrowded and that offers almost "anything" that one desires. We believe that absence

can be just as potent, and as valuable as the presence.

Built in the early 1970's, RHG contains memories of people who have lived and worked there and it also has witnessed the political and social changes that have taken place during the last 40 years.

In this sense, RHG is a reservoir of social, cultural and political artefacts. It is this context that we want to exploit and interrogate. We see this "void" as an entity that bridges the past and present.

We are not interested in imposing any fixed agendas or structures that might limit a potential of the buildings and the nature of the usages will be improvisational, self-organ-

isational and democratic. This new approach and usage will not make the building obsolete as other usages that have fixed agendas such as social housing, commercial, public institutions & etc have done so in the past. The new building will always be responsive and adaptive to the changing needs & demands of the public and the society as a whole.

The new RHG building will be composed of empty modular units/facades/fields that would accommodate the users in a wide range of usages such as exhibition, living, performance, sports, education and shopping. We hope that the new RHG will truly revitalize the area and transform the site into a new cultural hub in London.

### Alison and Peter Smithson's vision of Robin Hood Gardens

- it is protection.
- it is a calm centre where the pressures of the external world are held off by the building and outworks.
- the building is for the socialist dream.
- it is a bold statement.
- it is a place for the anonymous client.
- it wants to be universal, greater than our little state-related to a greater law.



Bill (Viola), Pipilotti (Rist) or Tony (Oursler), is anyone interested?

# Leisure



Ice cream or popcorn, anyone?



Chilling in the parking lot.



Ritz-Carlton takes over!



Say, ¥□\$ to the Robin Hood Gardens!

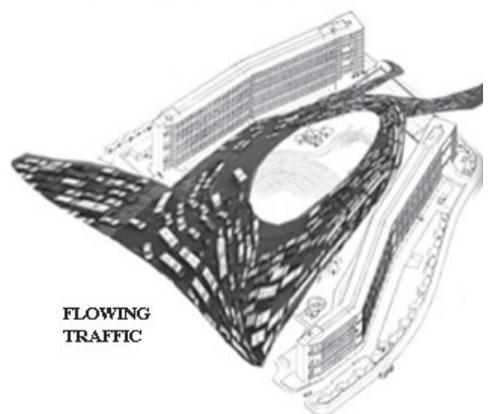
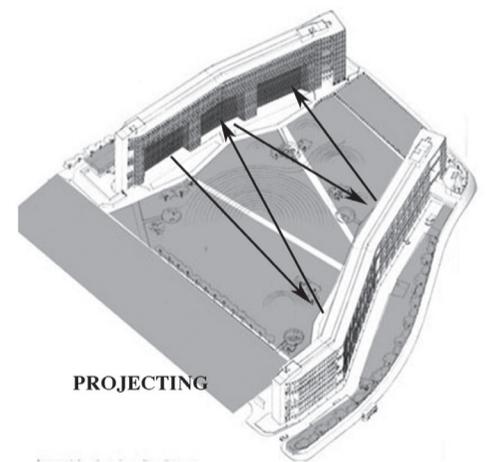
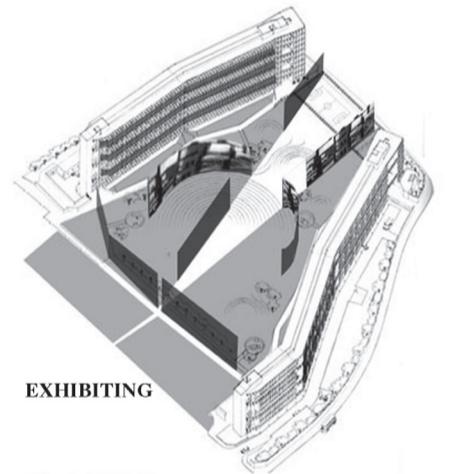
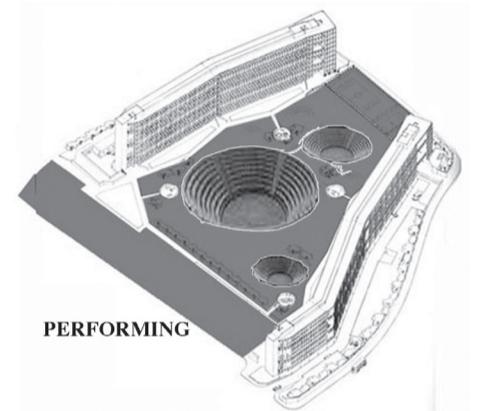
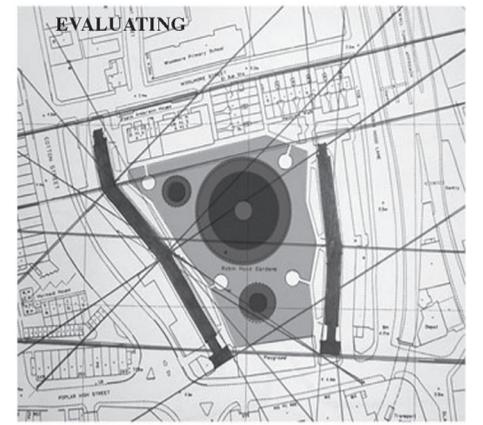


Andy visiting the Robin Hood Gardens.

# Leisure



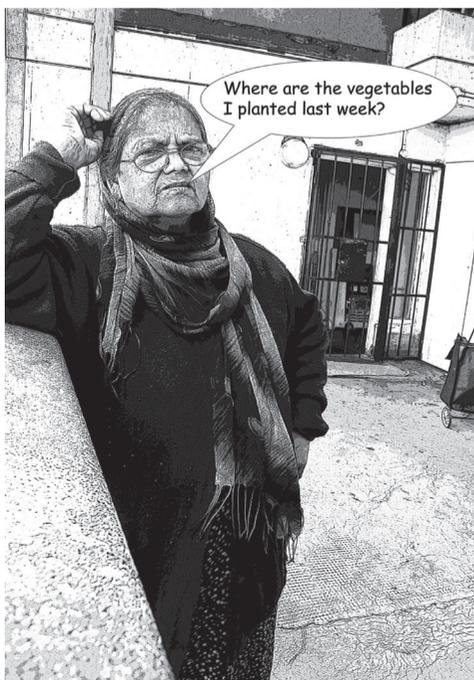
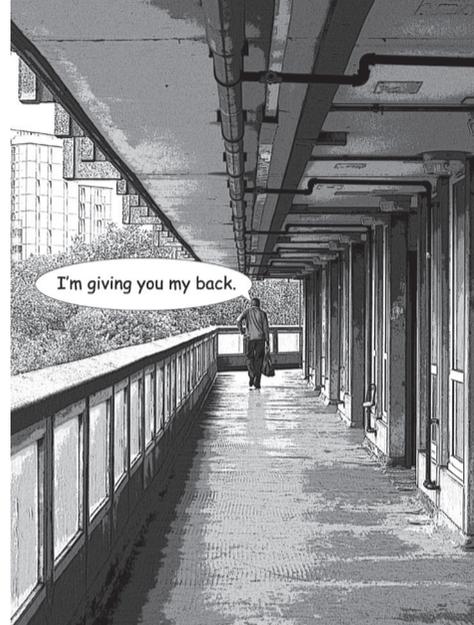
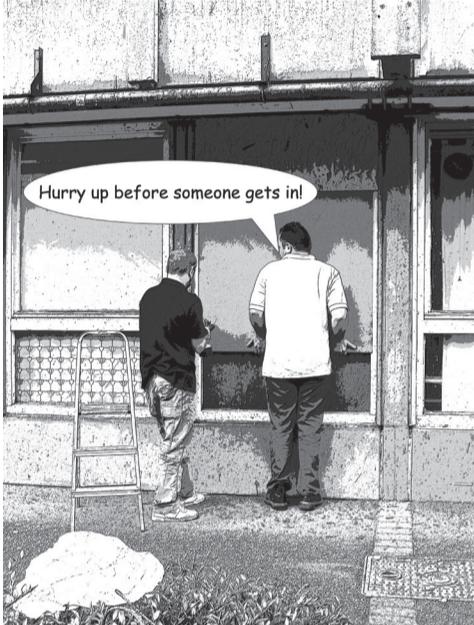
Ready for 2012



Freshly Minted RHG

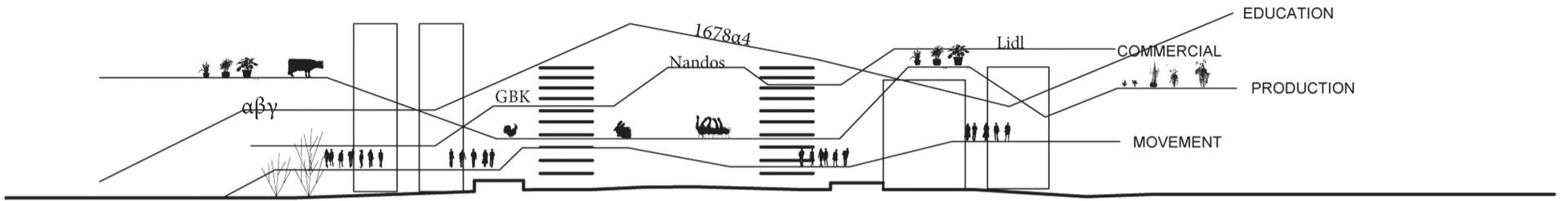
# Networking

## Daily Life at Robin Hood Garden



# Networking

## An Organic Link bridging dark and light



### VIRTUAL

2010

2030

### PHYSICAL ROUTES

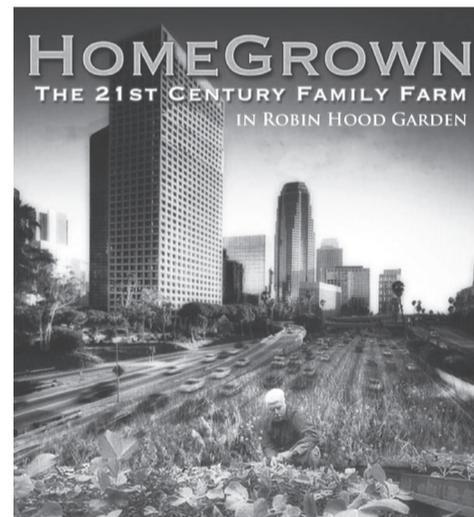
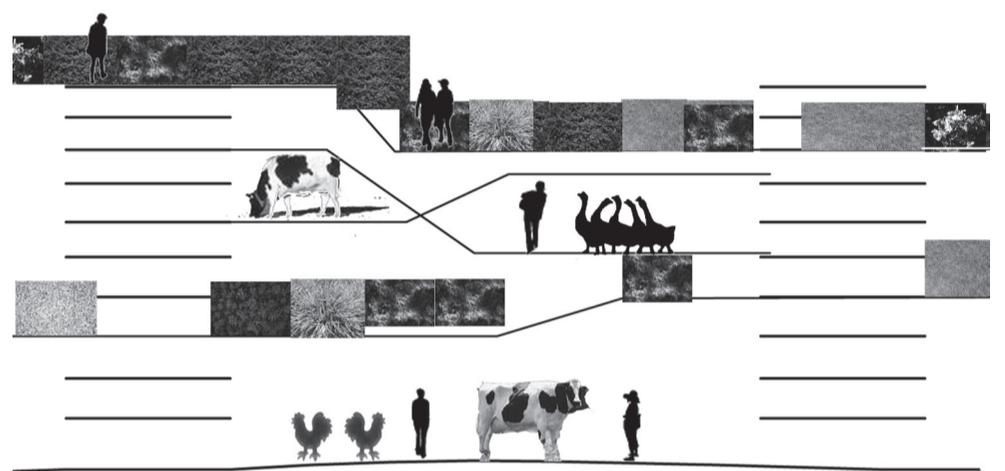
The Robin Hood Garden Urban Farm project will transform an under utilised garden into a highly productive urban farm that will supply the neighborhood with fresh, local, organic produce. The farm will grow more than just food. It will employ local youths who will gain jobs, enhance life, and entrepreneurial skills while helping to grow and market produce in the neighborhood. It will empower residents to eat healthy and to participate in transforming their community into a healthy and connected surrounding.

It will make fresh organic produce available at an affordable price to all residents regardless of income. It will bring residents of all ages and backgrounds together to build relationships and share knowledge, stories and food from their respective cultures.

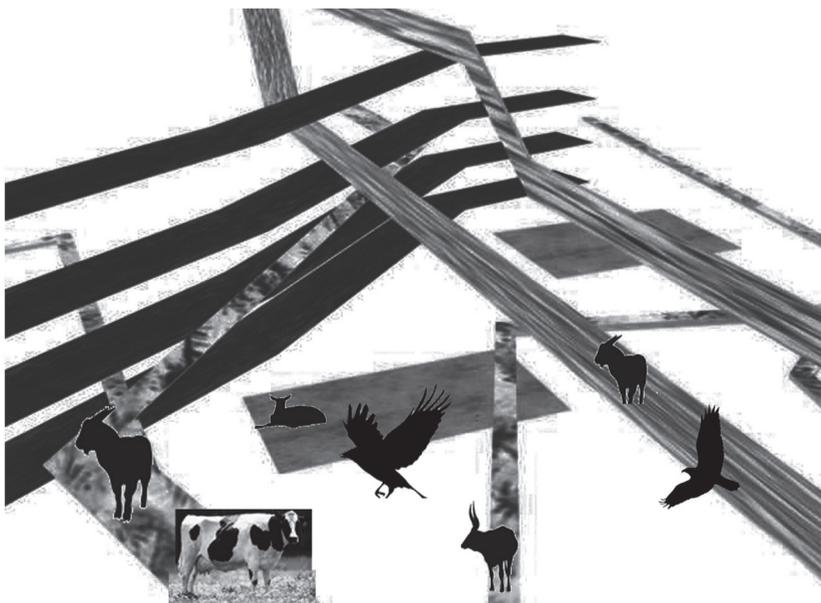
This collaborative project seeks to research and implement a viable model for an urban farm, both as a community resource and for profitable business plan. Robin Hood Garden intends to determine the balance between serving the educational needs of the larger community and providing a service to working members and building a successful business for an urban farmer.

Robin Hood Garden's mission is to create a bountiful and sustainable urban agriculture project producing super-local, nutritious and organic produce for neighboring families and businesses, while learning and teaching how to manage a successful urban farm.

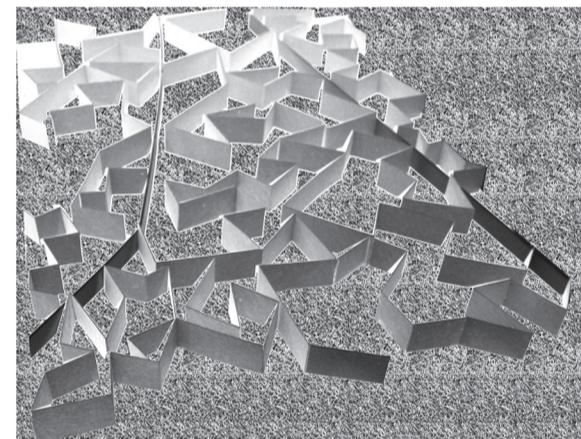
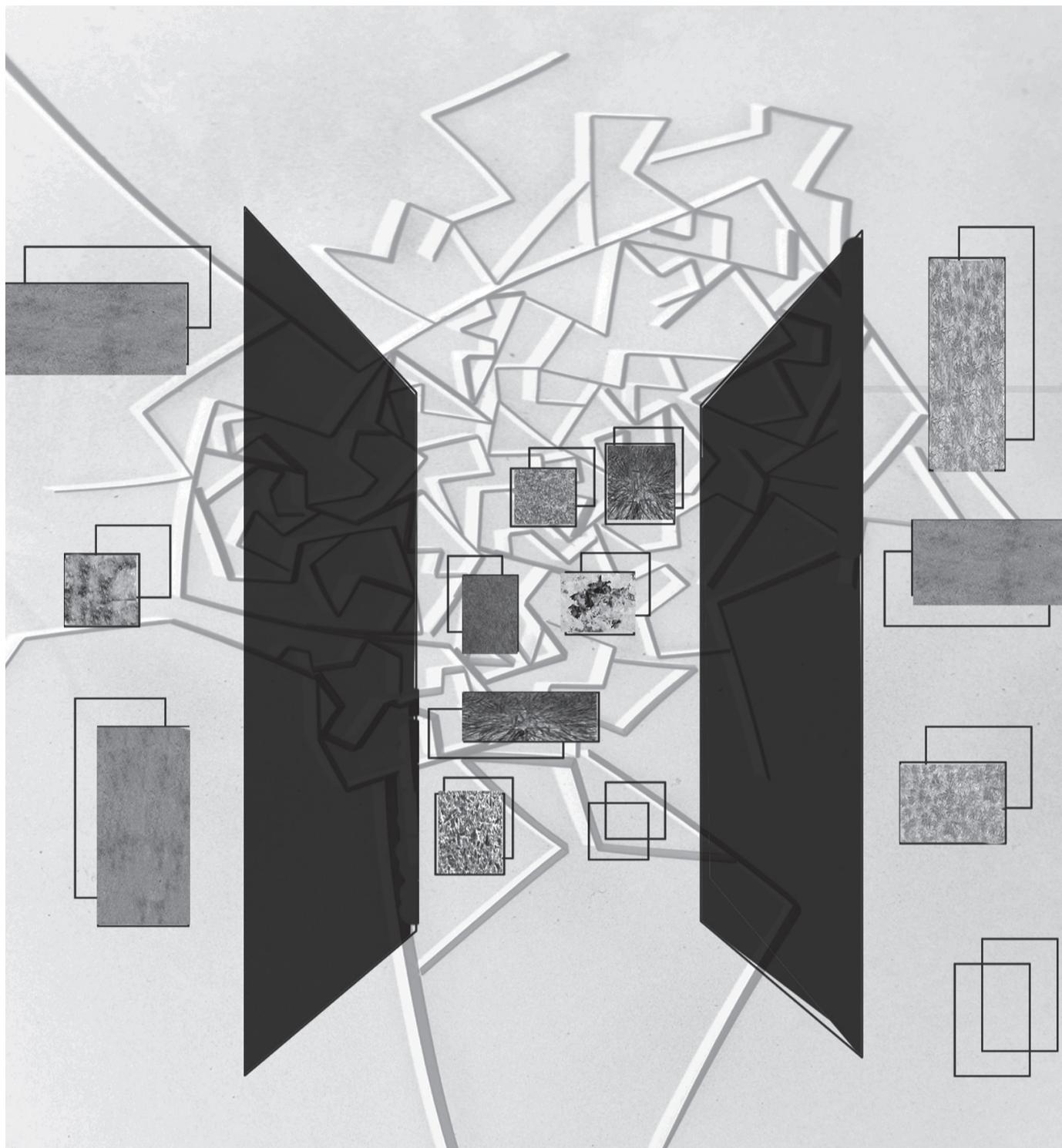
### TOWARDS REGENERATION



The Robin Hood Garden's Urban Farm will host monthly educational work parties. These events will offer working members the opportunity to learn urban farm skills and homesteading while contributing to their working membership and the production of their family's produce. These events are intended to provide working knowledge to the greater community for the creation and growth of similar farm projects.

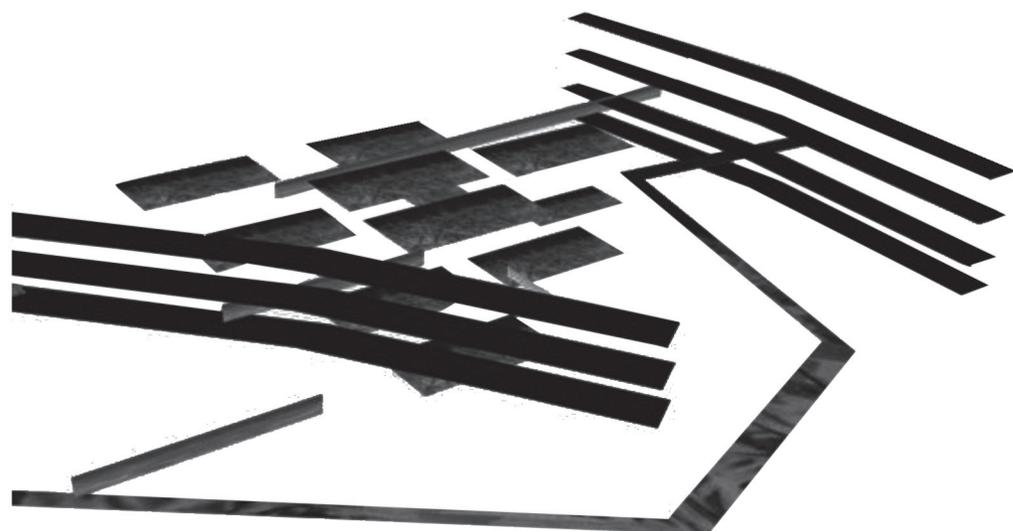
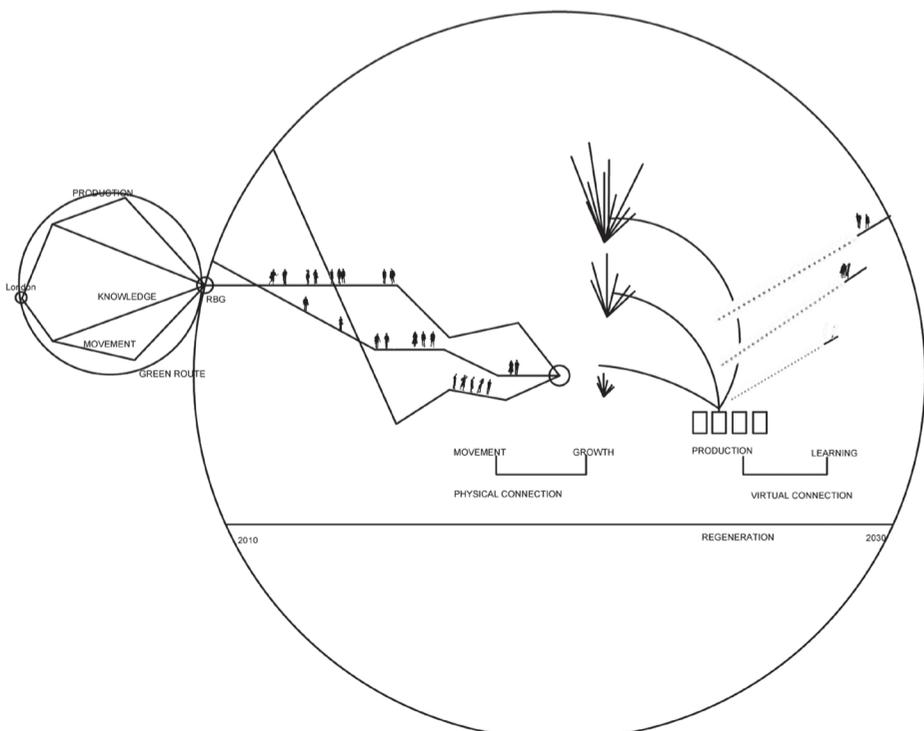


# Networking



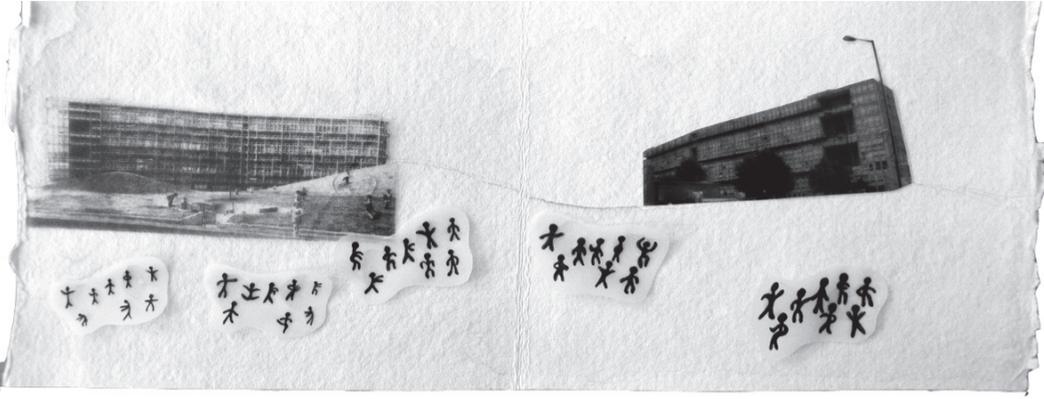
The Green Generation of Robin Hood Gardens

Embracing the existing RGH in a coherent new method crossing the barriers of culture.

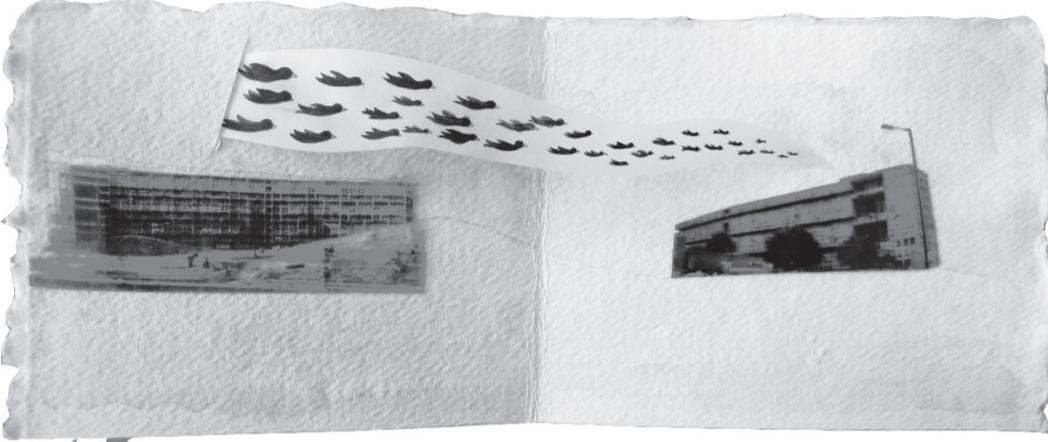


# Networking

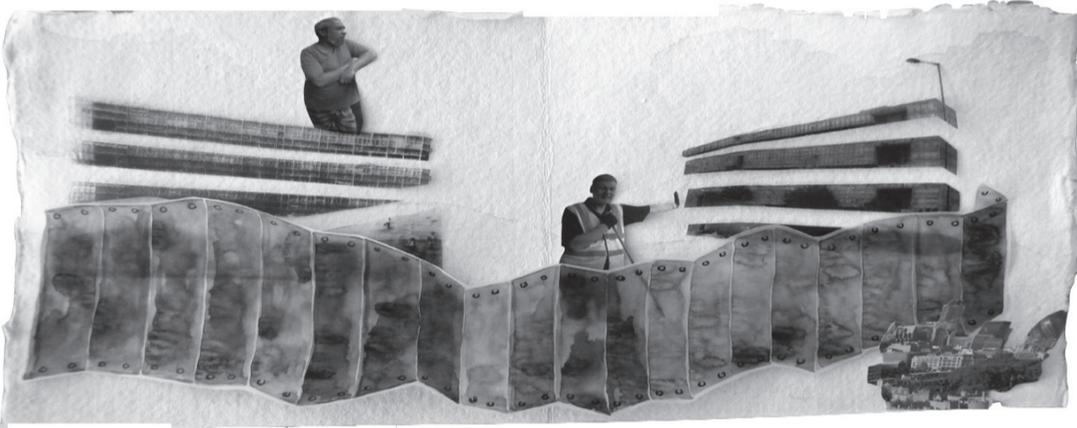
People rarely visit the Robin Hood Garden.



Birds still visit the Robin Hood Garden.



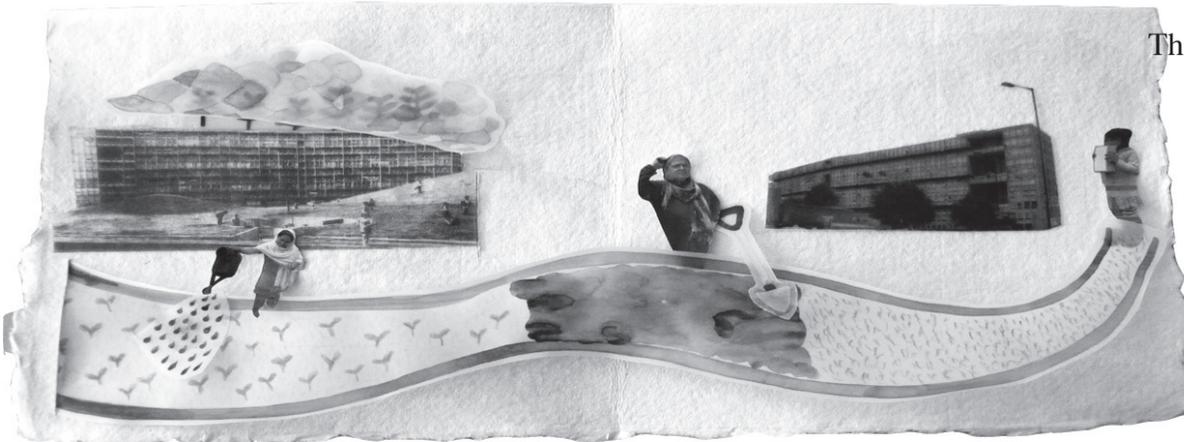
Communities in the two buildings are isolated.  
The concrete wall disconnect the Robin Hood Garden  
and the surrounding area.



Trees as a natural boundary open the space.



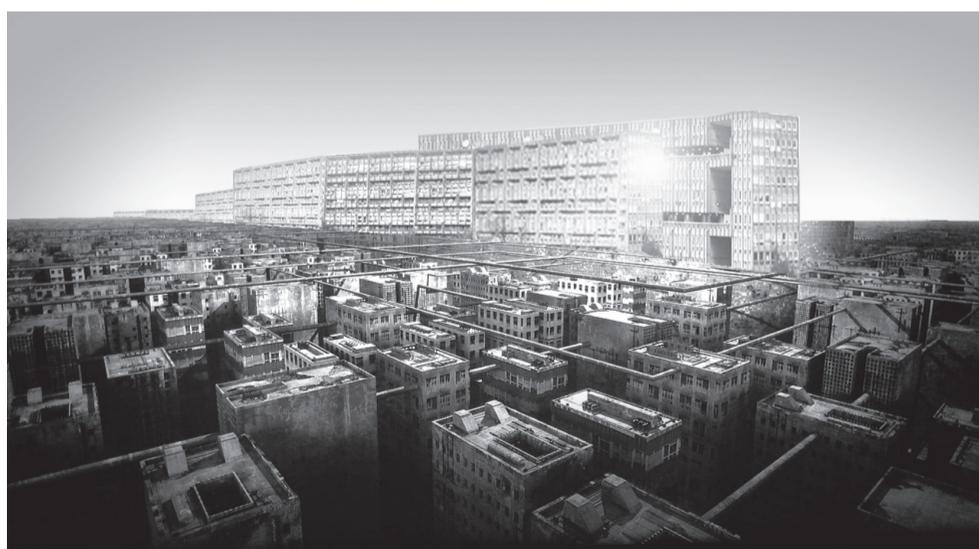
The residents keep digging into a grass field to grow vegetables.



## MY FAVOURITE MISTAKE



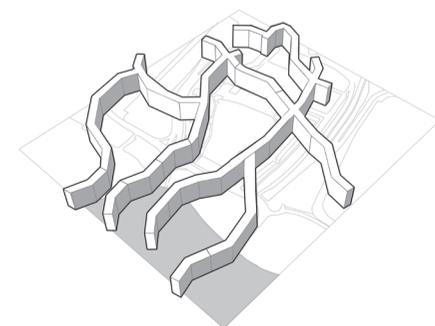
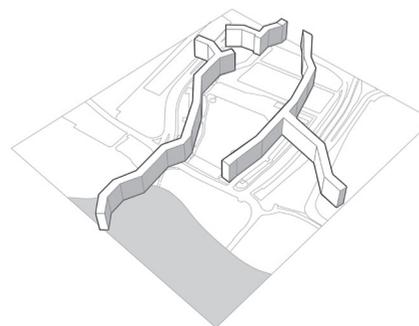
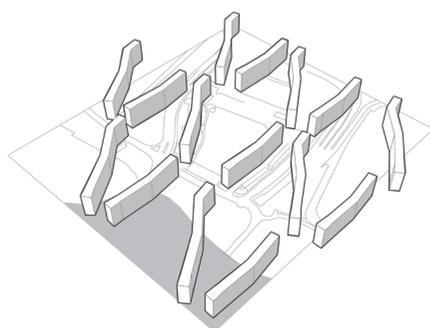
**The alternative future:  
a module repeated endlessly forming the  
perfect environment for any activity**



**A building is a  
machine for  
living**  
Le Corbusier

**Everywhere in the modern world there is neglect, the need to be recognised, which is not satisfied. Art is a way of recognising oneself, which is why it will always be modern.**

(Louise Bourgeois)



# Branding

## How light is TOO LIGHT?



In a time where every building coming up is a maze of steel and glass attempting to appear ethereal but in fact resulting in looking inconsequential and frail, Robin Hood Gardens stands as an indomitable figure, a solitary symbol of strength and endurance.



## ESCAPE THE FUTURE



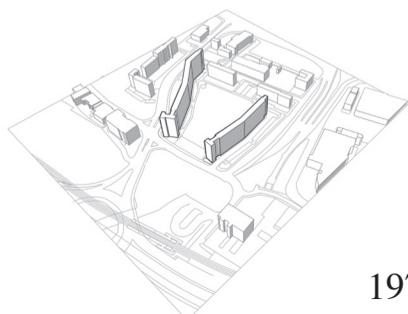
## THE LOST BATTLE

“Only in quiet waters do things mirror themselves undistorted. Only in a quiet mind is adequate perception of the world.”

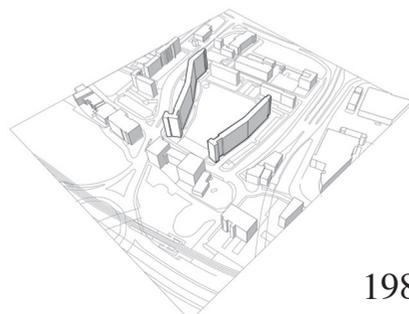
## Resurrecting The Past

Counteracting the current trend of building height, the project explores the Smithsons and other modernists ideology and vision of low rise, high density modular urbanism, a module repeated endlessly forming the perfect environment for any activity.

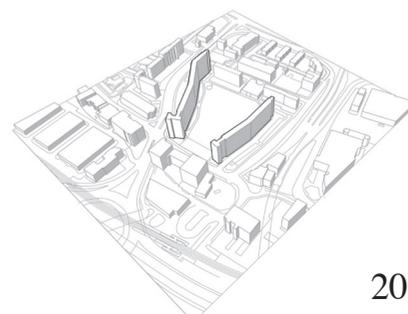
The new Robin Hood Gardens explores this exhaustive repetition by a visual juxtaposition of modern London and the modernist approach. A mirror arrangement on the narrow end of the site, exposes a visual play of a repeating and never ending façade. To complete the comparison, one gets a glimpse of the present London framed by the screen.



1970



1980



2000



2020

# Branding

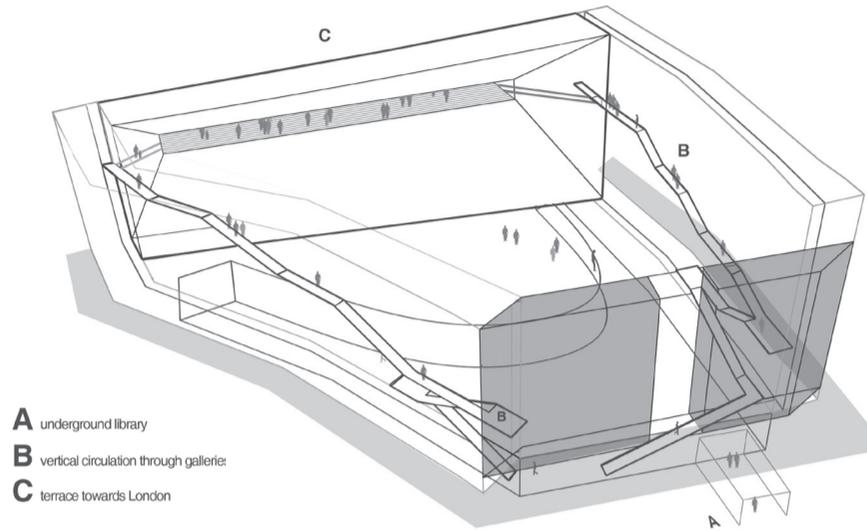
**The long battle is over. Robin Hood Garden gaining a new identity by pioneering a centre for art therapy - Offering a unique experience for patients to rejuvenate in a cocooned sheltered environment right in the middle of New London Centre**

London 20 July 2012

After years of debate and petitions between politicians, historians and residents of the former council housing complex near Blackwall station in Poplar, the son of the architects Alison and Peter Smithsons, Simon Smithson finally achieves his dream. By introducing the artists community and temporary residential use for art therapy patients, exhibition spaces, class rooms, communal areas the architectural icon remains.

The master planning takes into account the original considerations towards the site encasing a green heaven in between the concrete jungle that is London. This now gives space to open air exhibitions, performance art and an underground

## ROBIN HOOD IS BACK



A underground library  
B vertical circulation through galleries  
C terrace towards London

library. The centre provides a vista for celebrating the magnanimity of this building and experience the overpowering of honest architecture. A visitor's journey starts underground where one looks up through a wide spanning glass roof to the towering complex. It is here that one truly experiences the overpowering force that is Brutalist Architecture. The galleries, workshops and performance areas are spaced throughout the complex at different levels forcing the visitor to ascend gradually. As the vertical progression continues, the overpowering presence of the building diminishes gradually towards the viewing platform. When one looks over the city the initial heaviness seems to vanish and it is the city of London which now takes over. And one wonders who is overpowering who?

**ART IS A  
GUARANTEE  
OF SANITY**

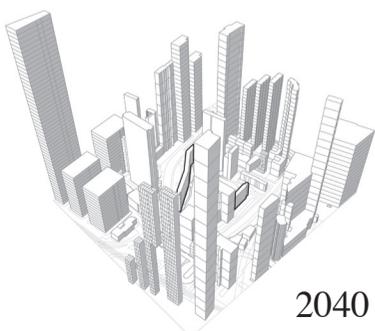
Louise Bourgeois



**FRAMING THE NEW  
VIEWS OF LONDON  
ROBIN HOOD GARDENS  
NEW TERRACE**

## New façade technology returns old styles back to life

“admire the night”



2040





**Unit 31 Supersuburban**

Focussing on the soon-to-be-demolished Robin Hood Gardens in Poplar, East London, we ask the questions 'what is London' and what is the relationship of Robin Hood Gardens to London? Where is the focus of a changing city in the 21st century and what is its impact on the urban living experiences as we consider what is the super and what is the suburban?

**Super + suburban = living, networking, branding & leisure**

**Design: Mari Hunt / Art Direction: Clement Blanchet / Mads Farso**

**Contributing Editors: Felipe Aldana - felipealdana19@hotmail.com / Andres Barbazano - aa\_barbazano@hotmail.com**

**Hugo Bello - hbello@gmail.com / Songul Demir - tsongul@yahoo.co.uk / Mari Hunt - marlhunt@gmail.com**

**Yulchiro Komatsu - ykomatsu75@gmail.com / Eirini Krasaki - eirini.krasaki@goopemail.com**

**Smita Lukose - smitalukose@gmail.com / Pariya Manafi - 90002715-8@aus.edu**

**Dan Mitchell - danmitch@btinternet.com / Min - chijanama@mac.com / Zoya Puri - zoya.puri@gmail.com**

**Chris Roberts - robber28\_2000@yahoo.co.uk / Dana Shalkh Solalman - 900027588@aus.edu**

**Felida Vocke - felidavocke@goopemail.com / Easen Zeng - es\_zeng@hotmail.com**

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