



Urban Jigsaw

In July 2015 the Royal Academy of Arts launched *Urban Jigsaw*, an ideas competition which offered a platform for architects to develop speculative proposals for brownfield sites and undeveloped spaces across London. As the capital's population fast approaches 10 million, the open call competition asked for ideas that were creative, research-driven and capable of realising the potential of these missing pieces of London's urban jigsaw.

From the many high quality submissions, four architects – Atelier Kite, Chetwoods, Alma-nac and Maccreanor Lavington and East – were invited to work up their proposals and to present their ideas publicly to an expert panel for public 'crits' in November 2015 and March 2016. This spring, the project will culminate with a display of the four proposals in the Royal Academy's Architecture Space and a series of accompanying events. Exploring a range of issues, from housing and infrastructure to creativity and public space, the four projects provide thought provoking answers to the critical questions facing London over the next decade.

Display

Urban Jigsaw

Architecture Space

27 April – 29 May 2016

In a month-long display in the Architecture Space, the final proposals, by Atelier Kite, Chetwoods, Alma-nac and Maccreanor Lavington and East, will be revealed. The display will include striking visual presentations and imagery with explanatory texts. Full details of each of the proposals will be available online with statements from the architects, images and supplementary information: www.royalacademy.org.uk/architecture

Hackney Kitchen by Atelier Kite

Atelier Kite have rethought the role of the domestic kitchen. They propose to reconfigure its position in relation to the home with twenty-first century systems of food retail, consumption and waste management. They envisage a shared facility – the food palace – to combine a range of kitchen spaces with that of a food market hall. They see this as the basis for building private individual spaces, liberated from bulky yet limiting and underused 'nuclear kitchens'. Creating this new typology would allow for the optimisation of resources and costs, enabling affordable living and a more sustainable urban food supply chain.

Well-Line by Chetwoods

Chetwoods' Well-Line would transform London's longest brownfield site, the 6-mile long underground 'Post Office Railway', into an automated logistics supply line, delivering goods from across the world into the heart of the capital. The Well-Line would take traffic off roads reducing congestion and could also carry data and waste along its two tunnels, generating

energy. Valuable secondary heat would be created through shafts linked to 'green generators', incorporating heat pumps, pollution-filtering materials and thermal chimneys, and harvesting wind, water and sunlight. The Wells – existing, re-opened and new access points connecting the Well-Line with the surface – would become environmentally sustainable social and commercial spaces to reinvigorate their neighbourhoods.

Make: Good Waterloo by Alma-nac

Alma-nac propose to create a network of locations for artists, makers and crafts people to practice and teach in Waterloo bringing back this type of activity which has been lost with high land value. They would create physical spaces that are also visual signifiers of the activities happening within. The resulting network will link with local institutions and increase the density of occupancy in existing buildings. They have explored three tactics to achieve the above. Urban dentistry: the use of leftover otherwise undeveloped pockets of land to create a network of small spaces. Local Authorities: working with local authorities to identify potential sites already owned by the borough that could be enlivened by the incorporation of spaces for craft and making. Policy: reviewing and amending policy that encourages new buildings to include these spaces, visually distinct from the main building to create a network of varied spaces.

Future Justice by Maccreanor Lavington and East

At present there is much discussion about changes to the judicial system. In 2015, a proposal was put forward to close underused courts and relocate caseloads to either existing courts or integrate them into other civic/public buildings, with the potential to affect 20% of court buildings nationwide. Future Justice focuses on the potential to redevelop courthouses earmarked for closure and return them to the purpose for which they were originally intended – a civic asset at the heart of the community. Maccreanor Lavington and East want to ensure the conversation regarding how our cities are developing is part of a wider debate. With Future Justice, there is an opportunity to contribute to a new urban fabric where the eventual end-user will want to live or work, achieving this through attention not only to materials and detailing, but to careful integration of public space.

Admission free

Dates and Opening hours

Open to public: Wednesday 27 April – Sunday 29 May 2016
 10am – 6pm daily (until 10pm Friday)

Events

For information or to book, visit royalacademy.org.uk/events or telephone 020 7300 5839. Reductions are available for students, jobseekers and individuals with disabilities with recognised proof of status.

Architects' Presentations

During the run of the display, each architect will present their proposal for public discussion and debate.

Reynolds Room, Royal Academy of Arts
7–7.30pm; Free, no booking required

Chetwoods on 'Well-line'

Friday 29 April

Alma-nac on 'Make Good: Waterloo'

Friday 13 May

Atelier Kite on 'Hackney Kitchen'

Friday 20 May

Maccreeanor Lavington and East on 'Future Justice'

Friday 27 May

Debate

Centre or Suburb? Locating the soul of 21st-century London

Friday 6 May

Royal Society of Chemistry

6.30–8pm; £12/£6 reductions

A panel of speakers debate the most critical issues facing London over the next few decades – from housing and infrastructure to culture and community. Does London's future lie in the centre of the suburb? How can we plan strategically without destroying the spontaneous and the organic? Where should we be looking for the soul of 21st-century London? Speakers include: Hannah Barry (Founder, Hannah Barry Gallery and Bold Tendencies), Martyn Evans (Creative Director, U+I), Rowan Moore (Architecture Critic, The Observer), Fran Tonkiss (Professor of Sociology and Director of the Cities Programme, LSE) and Owen Hopkins (Chair and Architecture Programme Curator, Royal Academy of Arts).

Images

Publicity images for *Urban Jigsaw* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

Facebook /royalacademy

Instagram @royalacademyarts

Twitter @architecture_RA

#UrbanJigsaw

The Architecture Programme at the Royal Academy of Arts is made possible through the Drue Heinz Endowment for Architecture.

Turkishceramics is the lead supporter of the 2016 season.

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting and revitalising the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the RA Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme.

For public information or to book events, please print 020 7300 8090 or visit www.royalacademy.org.uk/architecture Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J OBD

For further press information, please contact Annabel Potter on 020 7300 5615 or email press.office@royalacademy.org.uk