



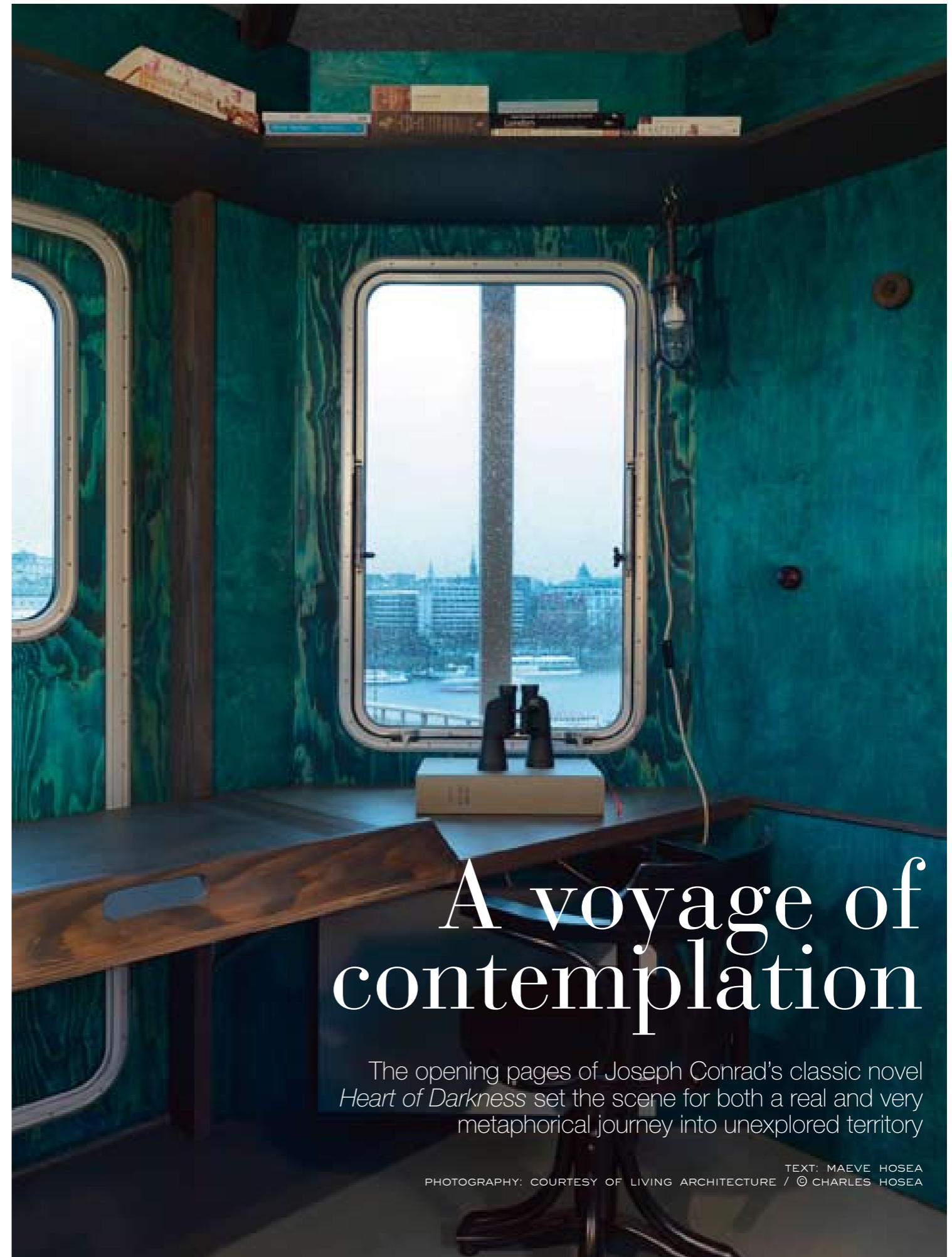
"Architecture is a visual art,
and the buildings speak for themselves"
- Julia Morgan

+ The HK\SZ Biennale:
what's it all about?
香港\深圳雙年展



舞台實錄

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE



A voyage of contemplation

The opening pages of Joseph Conrad's classic novel *Heart of Darkness* set the scene for both a real and very metaphorical journey into unexplored territory

TEXT: MAEVE HOSEA
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF LIVING ARCHITECTURE / © CHARLES HOSEA



Inspired by protagonist Marlow relating the spellbinding tale of a voyage from London to Africa in *Heart of Darkness*, Roi des Belges is an architectural installation that has been craned into place overlooking The Thames on London's Southbank. The new terrain here is the roof of the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the boat-shaped building occupying it serves as both a holiday let and an artist's retreat.

The latest addition to the Living Architecture collection of contemporary architect-designed accommodations, the building is a place for people to contemplate their relationship to London and the wider world. "It is very much about being away from the city while being within it," says architect David Kohn, who worked on the project in collaboration with artist Fiona Banner. "We wanted it to be about London and, given its

location, we were particularly aware of the Thames, the reason why the city is there and how it is connected to the world at large."

A raft of props within the design assists visitors in this type of reflection. A whole room is given over to a desk, a library and a magnificent view of the river, including a skyline peppered with significant buildings.

Organised by Living Architecture and Artangel in association with the Southbank Centre and the London 2012 Festival, the boat structure is the winning entry in a competition that sought to create a space for quiet reflection in a city setting. "For me, the Roi des Belges is about how stories are made and retold," says Banner. "It is a vessel, a setting for other people to be creative in – it starts as a collaboration between architect and artist, and then becomes collaboration between visitor and building."

A Room for London, as this project has been termed, is a comment on the city in which it is situated. "Very publicly visible yet only privately experienced, there is a powerful incongruity between the permanence of St Paul's to its right and Parliament to its left that gives this little boat both its strength and its vulnerability," says Artangel co-director Michael Morris.

The pragmatic concerns of coping with the technical challenges of building on a flat roof allied with the desire for a journey inspired the boat design. The creative intention was to establish a space that is sufficiently layered that people staying there have the context in which to be as contemplative as they wish. "A guest there for a night might be just be wrapped up in someone's arms, the view, a bottle of champagne and maybe does not have to consider much 'darkness'," says Kohn. "But we didn't want

people to come inside and think 'what a slick boat'. We were trying to create atmospheres."

With an en-suite double bedroom, kitchenette, library and viewing deck, the interior of the 'boat' has been coloured magenta and turquoise. Space is at a premium, but the design fits a lot in both physically and intellectually. Significantly, Kohn and Banner's design finds architectural parallels to the character in Conrad's book, one of wonder but also of disquiet.

Kohn points to the irony that London is in the middle of a financial crisis and you can see the City – the financial heart of the metropolis – from the window. Inside the boat there is a 'cabinet of curiosities' containing drawings, one of which is of the Bank of England in ruins. The cabinet is a tribute to 18th century architect Sir John Soane, who used a similar technique of layering paintings in his house in Lincoln's Inn

Fields, and the drawing itself is one taken from the Sir John Soane Museum.

Other Soane techniques are also used, such as the fact that the boat is a series of little rooms rather than one big one. The first chamber that the visitor enters has a pyramidal skylight that is yellow, allowing for a golden light to fall into the room. "This use of coloured light within small rooms is a motif within the John Soane Museum, a device that makes things seem slightly other-worldly," explains Kohn. "You have to go through a sequence of spaces and each has its own purpose and character."

The building is inventive and fulfils its purpose of offering something new to London's skyline, if only for a temporary period. Up here on the roof of one of the city's most iconic brutalist structures, visitors are invited to think about what civilisation means... or just enjoy the view.

"It starts as a collaboration between architect and artist, and then becomes collaboration between visitor and building"



Balancing Barn

Living Architecture以「體驗大膽又體貼的設計能改善生活」為前提，為大眾提供機會，可以一試租住由多名當代頂尖建築師設計的房屋。

薩福克郡的Balancing Barn引領住客體驗大自然。房子由MVRDV設計，外牆鋪上銀磚，結構懸吊半空離地15米，配上環迴大窗眺望木林、池塘和草地，氣勢逼人。

位於Dungeness的Shingle House由NORD Architects設計，呼應所在沿岸地區環境荒蕪卻美麗的特質。木瓦塗上黑色瀝青，展現傳統釣魚小屋的美學，而室內則鋪上白漆木板。

Dune House由挪威建築事務所Jarmund/Vignsnaes設計，位於Thorpeness。房子的底層呈開放式格局，由玻璃牆包圍，而上層的外牆則鋪上黑色木板，使得房子儼如浮在半空。設計呼應四周常見的典型穀倉。

Hopkins Architects在諾福克郡設計了The Long House，糅合古老建築技術及現代技術。房子有一大堵以傳統技術砌成的碎石牆，還有大面積的木屋頂，鋼索及桁架融合精細的工藝建造，用以加固屋頂。

Living Architecture designs 名師之作

Working on the premise that experiencing bold, thoughtful design can improve your life, Living Architecture offers an opportunity to rent houses designed by a range of top contemporary architects.

Engaging inhabitants in an experience of nature, Balancing Barn (Suffolk) by MVRDV is clad in silver tiles and dramatically cantilevers 15m over the landscape, with huge panoramic windows looking over woods, ponds and meadows.

The Shingle House in Dungeness (NORD Architects) responds to the starkness of its bleak yet beautiful coastal setting, clad in black-tarred shingles to reference the aesthetics of traditional fishing huts. The interior is clad in painted white wood panels.

Norwegian architects Jarmund/Vignsnaes' Dune House in Thorpeness has an open-plan ground floor made of glass walls. Appearing to float on top, the upper storey is clad with black timber, resonant of barns typical of the surrounding geographical area.

Hopkins Architects designed The Long House in Norfolk, a fusion of old-style building techniques with modern technology. It incorporates a huge, traditionally-crafted flint wall and a vast timber roof, reinforced with steel cabling and trusses assembled into an intricate sculptural construction.



Above Shingle House; Below Dune House



思緒啟航

約瑟夫康拉德經典小說《黑暗之心》的序幕，為一趟既實在又意味深長的探索新大陸之旅奠定基礎

撰文：MAEVE HOSEA
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馬洛是《黑暗之心》一書的主角，扣人心弦的故事講述他從倫敦航行到非洲的所見所聞。他，正是最近倫敦南岸上方、鳥瞰泰晤士河的一個藝術建築的靈感泉源。Roi des Belges屋以小船之貌，在伊麗莎白女王音樂廳的屋頂新鮮「著陸」，既是假日的出租屋，亦是藝術家的隱世之所。

身為Living Architecture的當代建築師房屋設計系列的最新傑作，這間小船屋由建築師David Kohn和藝術家Fiona Banner攜手合作設計，讓人在內審視自身與倫敦、以至與大世界之間的關係。David說：「概念是要讓人身在城市之中卻能有抽離之感。我們希望小屋能以倫敦為題，而基於房子位於伊麗莎白女王音樂廳的屋頂，我們特別注意到泰晤士河。這條河流是倫敦在此落地生根的原因、接通大世界的要素。」

設計上許多細節，都幫助訪客朝著這方向深思。一整間房間內，只有書桌和圖書館，而且放眼迷人美景，眺望泰晤士河，遠望倫敦高樓密佈的天際。

小船建築是一場設計比賽的優勝作品，比賽由Living Architecture和Arange主辦、南岸中心在London 2012 Festival協辦，旨在在都市環境中塑造出適合靜思的地方。David說：「於我而言，Roi des Belges在乎如何創造故事、如何重述故事。這裡是個渠道，讓其他人發揮創意——一開始是建築師和藝術家攜手帶來創意，然後就到訪客與小屋互動發揮小宇宙。」

正如計劃的名字「A Room for London (倫敦之屋)」，小屋代表著對身處的這個城市的感想。Arange聯席總監Michael Morris說：「這艘小船雖然矚目顯眼，卻只限私人體驗。小船右邊是聖保羅大教堂，左邊是國會大廈，兩邊的永久建築帶出強烈的不協調感，帶給小船既強且弱的感覺。」

實際考慮到在平屋頂上興建屋子要面對的技術難題，加上渴望來一趟旅程，啟發出小船設計。創作意念是要塑造出一個層次充足的空間，讓逗留內的人能得到他們渴望的沉思環境。David說：「來這裡住一晚的客人，可能只是要整夜被擁在臂彎之中，浸淫在美景之中喝瓶香檳，可能不一定要考慮太多心底的『黑暗』。但是，我們不想人們進內，會想『真是艘華而不實的船。我們試著去營造氣氛。』」

小船內設有雙人套房、小型廚房、圖書館和觀景平台，一室盡是品紅與藍綠色。空間有限，但設計無論是在實際佈局上、還是在意識形態上，都十分合適。更意義重大的，是David和Roi為約瑟夫康拉德故事裡的主角找到與之相配的建築，神奇卻憂鬱。

David指諷刺的是，倫敦正陷於金融危機之中，而從窗戶卻可看到這個大都會的金融中心西提區。船內有個「珍奇之櫃」放有畫作，其中一張便是繪畫英倫銀行的遺跡。這個櫃子向20世紀建築師約翰索恩爵士致敬，他在其林肯因河廣場的府邸使用上類似的方法為畫作分出層次，而畫作本身便是從約翰索恩爵士博物館來的。

小船的設計亦用上索恩爵士的其他手法，例如小船由一連串的小房間組成，而非只是單一的大房間。訪客進入的第一個房間設有黃色的金字塔狀天窗，使得一束金光透射進房間內。David解釋：「在小房間中應用有色光線，正是約翰索恩爵士博物館的主題，是種讓物件看來像是來自另一國度的小技巧。你要走過一個又一個的空間，而每個都各具用途和個性。」

小船房子創意滿分，亦成功達到目的，為倫敦的天際帶來一點新意，雖然只是一段短時間。走上倫敦其中一座最經典的粗野主義建築的屋頂，細想文明的意思：又或是，只來享受美景。E