

# Design

News, ideas and sourcebook

## LINEAR LIVING

Outpost, a London-based architecture and design studio, has won an international RIBA competition on behalf of the Great Place: Lakes and Dales Partnership to design a development of flexible, affordable housing and workspaces for young people who want to live and work in the rural village of Burneside in the Lake District. The winning design reimagines the idea of the longhouse, using high-performing natural materials, including straw-bale panels for the outer walls, to create energy-efficient buildings that can be adapted and personalised. The longhouses are linked by a series of courtyards and passages, and their communal spaces, such as allotment gardens and courtyard gardens, help to strengthen a community spirit. [outpostlondon.com](http://outpostlondon.com)



# News

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## ① FORMER FACTORY CLOCKS ON

Planning permission has been granted for a 4.95-hectare mixed-use development that delivers up to 1,300 homes on the site of a former Horlicks factory in Slough. Architects Sheppard Robson will restore part of the building, including the historic clocktower, that will house facilities such as a café, gym and community nursery. A mews street references historic railway lines, and forms part of new cycle links to surrounding neighbourhoods. The landscaping, by Bradley Murphy Design, includes community gardens criss-crossed with rills and streets lined with trees and hedges. [sheppardrobson.com](http://sheppardrobson.com)

## ② SERPENTINE PAVILION 2020

The 20th summer pavilion for London's Serpentine Gallery has been designed by Johannesburg-based studio Counterspace and will be constructed from cork and bricks made of recycled construction waste. K-Briq modules do not require firing and so produce a tenth of the carbon emissions of standard fired bricks. The building shapes are created by the addition, subtraction and splicing of architectural forms. Small, movable elements will allow parts of the pavilion to be put on display in neighbourhoods around London before being returned at the end of summer. [serpentinegalleries.org](http://serpentinegalleries.org)

## ③ TRADING SPACES

A pocket garden on a trading estate in Hereford has been designed by career-change garden designer Sara Edwards. The Foley Community Garden is a shared green space formed by a curved planter made from galvanised steel left in its raw state, to blend with the industrial environment. A cantilevered iroko bench provides a social seating area for users of the Foley Trading Estate and the planting will be rich in wildlife- and pollinator-friendly plants. Construction starts this month and the garden, which was part-funded by crowd funding, will be planted up and maintained by volunteers. [no30design.co.uk](http://no30design.co.uk)

## ④ NEW ORLEANS WETLANDS

A community of nuns has donated its convent and surrounding land, which was damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, to the city of New Orleans to become part of its flood prevention measures. The 25-acre Mirabeau Water Garden is being developed by New Orleans architects Waggoner & Ball and Carbo Landscape Architecture. It will have the capacity to absorb and store approximately 6.5 million gallons of floodwater with its cover of native meadow grasses combined with bioswales, and a grove of cypresses. Elevated boardwalks will create paths through the flood meadows. [carbo-la.com](http://carbo-la.com)



## MOTHER EARTH

*Mother...*, a sculptural pavilion inspired by the hayricks that were once a familiar sight across the peaty landscape of the Fenlands, has been installed at Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire as part of the arts programme New Geographies, which brings contemporary art to unexpected places in the East of England. Created by artists Heather and Ivan Morison of Studio Morison, it is a refuge, entered through three doorways, for those who want to enjoy moments of silence and solitude. The walls and roof are made from local straw and an oculus in the conical ceiling floods the interior with light. A programme of events will take place at the pavilion, which will remain on site until October. [newgeographies.uk](http://newgeographies.uk); [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)



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**⑤ PLANT POWER**

Interactive lighting based on the electricity generated by living plants has been installed in Park van Morgen in the municipality of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Small lights that respond to human presence twinkle as people walk along a 35m path. The project, dubbed the Park of Tomorrow, is a collaboration between Dutch designer Ermi van Oers and innovators Plant-e. The lights, which harvest the electrons produced during photosynthesis when the sugars excreted by plants are broken down by bacteria, can be applied wherever plants are growing in moist soil. [plant-e.com](http://plant-e.com); [livinglight.info/](http://livinglight.info/); [living-light-park](http://living-light-park)

**⑥ GATES OPEN ON TO STRAWBERRY FIELD**

Liverpool's Strawberry Field, formerly the site of a Salvation Army children's home in whose grounds John Lennon played as a child, has opened to the public. The site includes a visitor centre exploring the history of the site and the writing of The Beatles song *Strawberry Fields Forever*, and a community café and shop, as well as gardens that have been restored by Gavin Jones, part of the Nurture Landscapes Group, and landscape architects Rankinfraser. The iconic red gates have been returned to the site, and the grounds planted with 85 trees and more than 14,000 shrubs. [strawberryfieldliverpool.com](http://strawberryfieldliverpool.com)

**⑦ VICTORIA REVIVAL**

A new vision for reduced traffic and increased green infrastructure in central London has been unveiled by business-led bodies Victoria BID and Victoria Westminster BID. Drawn up by architects Building Design Partnership and transport planning consultants Urban Flow, the People Wanted scheme includes removing traffic on two sides of Parliament Square, pedestrianising the route to the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey. A new linear park along Victoria Street, would connect Victoria Station with the square. Westminster Cathedral piazza (above) would be improved with water features and extensive planting. [victoriabid.co.uk](http://victoriabid.co.uk)

**⑧ MOVING WITH THE TIMES**

Construction has begun on Floating Office Rotterdam by Dutch architects Powerhouse Company. The wooden building, which can be disassembled and reused, contrives to be a blueprint for climate-resilient office design in the face of extreme weather events and rising sea levels, and will initially serve as the headquarters of the Global Center on Adaptation. Water from the Rijnhaven Canal will cool the building, and the roof, which is covered with solar panels and vegetation, provides a source of energy and insulation. Overhanging floors create shade from the sun. [powerhouse-company.com](http://powerhouse-company.com)