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## Activist architects needed to block Heathrow's third runway

DESIGN COMPETITION "MOST FASCINATING", SAYS JUDGE.

BY GEMMA BATTENBOUGH

In what could be one of the most exciting design competitions of the year, Greenpeace is challenging architects to don arms and take up the front line in the fight against climate change.

The environmental group has launched a "battle of the architects" to create an "impenetrable fortress" that will physically block the construction of a third runway at Heathrow.

A structure will be built at the centre of the site in west London, where airport operator BAA hopes to construct a \$12.7 billion runway and sixth terminal.

Greenpeace bought the plot of land on which the stronghold will be built last year, before distributing its ownership to people across the world. There are now over 60,000 beneficial owners of the runway land, with more people signing up every day on the Greenpeace website, creating a legal headache for any gov-



Architects are on the front line of the climate debate in London.

ernment trying to push ahead with Heathrow expansion.

Now the one-acre plot will see the construction of a fortress intended to defend the land from bulldozers and bailiffs. The structure will support owners of the land, local residents, seasoned campaigners and anybody else who wants to peacefully block the construction of a third runway.

Australia's own activist-architect, Andrew Maynard, told Architecture & Design that he hopes to enter the competition.

The winner will effectively be pit-

ted against architectural giants Grimshaw, which is masterplanning the expansion and the new runway.

However, larger firms, such as Norman Foster Architects, will probably choose not to engage in the competition, Maynard said, because being "radical" is seen as being "too dangerous".

There is a rebellious streak in many Australian architects and, according to Maynard, this has much to do with the disparity between architectural education and practice.

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## Renovation throws up ancient building remains

THE REMAINS of a 1st century building have been uncovered during the renovation of a building in Rome which the Australian Catholic Church is converting to a pilgrim centre for visiting Australians.

Architect, Chaira Scandaletti, said that the remains of a herringbone stone pathway, the wall of a house, column section and the foundations of a large building could be seen.

The ancient finds have already been protected and upon completion of the project will be on display for the religious tourists.

Prior to being purchased by the Australian Catholic Church, the 19th

century building was the student house of the Marist Fathers.

It is located a short distance from Stazione Termini or Rome's Central Station. In the 1st century this was between the two walls which surrounded the Roman city.

Accommodating 80 people, Domus Australia will be a "home away from home" – but not a hotel. Prices will be comparable with those of other church hostels in Rome.

Cardinal Pell laid the foundation stone prior to work beginning in July last year. He also walked over the site this week to see the ancient finds and speak with the architect.

The chapel, which will accommodate 200 people, will also feature a number of paintings by renowned Sydney artist, Paul Newton.

Other 19th and 20th century artworks to be featured at the centre are also being faithfully restored. Already some of these paintings that have been cleaned of the many layers of dirt and dust have revealed vibrant colours underneath.

Builders are not ruling out finding more 1st century tiles or foundations - but they do guarantee 20th century comfort when Domus Australia opens early next year.

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**THE NETHERLANDS**

A Cold War-era East German airplane has been transformed into a deluxe hotel suite for two, parked next to the Teuge Airport. The hotel comes with a jacuzzi, shower, infrared sauna, flat screen TVs, free wifi, air conditioning and more. Hotel patrons can watch other planes take-off and land and enjoy the service of a 24 hour on-call hostess.

**DUBAI**

Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum has reportedly emailed former Spice Girl, Victoria Beckham, offering her \$25 million to help design a luxury hotel. The hotel would form part of Nakheel's World islands development and Beckham is said to be considering the offer.

**ENGLAND**

London's Royal Docks could be turned into a waterside eco-town. The London Development Agency is said to be in talks with Newham Council and the Greater London Authority about the multi-billion dollar development which would house up to 30,000 people in a mixed-use sustainable development.

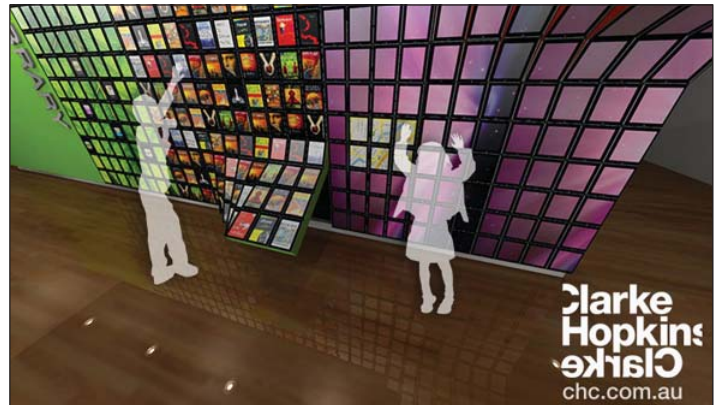
**SWEDEN**

After winning a design competition, Foster & Partners and Berg Arkitektkontor's masterplan for the redevelopment of the Slussen area of Stockholm is now up for public consultation. The design focused on creating a footbridge to link two of the main islands that make up the city. Public spaces, cycle routes and new buildings including bars and restaurants are included in the masterplan, as well as an underground transport interchange and the replacement of the working locks that regulate water traffic.

**SCOTLAND**

Construction has commenced on Glasgow's National Indoor Sports Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Designed by 3DReid, the project will host the badminton and cycling events at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Office spaces, sports halls, a roller-skate park and a gym will also form part of the development.

**Australian designs first iPad wall**



IT MAY have been launched by Apple only yesterday, but Melbourne practice ClarkeHopkinsClarke says the iPad holds significant potential for architects.

In fact, one of the firm's architects has already designed a concept for a library using iPads to create a multi-touch, sound-emitting wall.

While the library design is just a concept, it is something that could also work for schools and businesses.

"We have to be quick with new technologies," designer John Leung told Architecture & Design.

"There is a lot of potential for architects to use iPads in their designs - they are a very reasonable price, meaning that we can now have a wall of computers rather

than a wall of screens."

The iPad's modular design also makes installation and replacement easy, since each device has its own processor.

In the trend towards interactivity, technology will play a big role in design, Leung said.

The iPad is retailing for US\$499 but an Australian price is not yet available. The device is billed as being revolutionary for web browsing, reading, watching videos, playing games and reading e-books.

It has a high-resolution multi-touch display that lets you interact with content, is just 13.4 mm thick and weights 0.68 kg, making it thinner and lighter than any laptop or notebook.

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